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## THE TIMES

# Zimbabwe coalition agreed in Mugabe-Nkomo talks

Mr Robert Mugabe and Mr Joshua Nkomo, who together won 77 of the 80 black seats in the elections, agreed yesterday to form a coalition Government of Zimbabwe. Mr Mugabe also

arranged to meet Mr Ian Smith, whose Rhodesian Front holds the 20 white seats. As soon as the new Government takes office, Lord Soames is to leave as there is no role for him to fill.

## Meeting with Mr Smith arranged

SALISBURY, March 5.—Mr Robert Mugabe, the Rhodesian Prime Minister-designate, and his chief guerrilla rival, Mr Joshua Nkomo, agreed today to form a coalition government for the independent Zimbabwe.

"We are now at one," Mr Eddie Zvobgo, Mr Mugabe's spokesman, said after a 20-minute meeting between the two leaders this morning. "Mugabe made the offer," Mr Zvobgo said. "Comrade Nkomo has agreed to join us. It will be a Patriotic Front government."

Mr Zvobgo said he did not know if Mr Nkomo was offered a specific post in the new government. There has been speculation that he would be offered the largely ceremonial role of President—UPI.

Mr Zvobgo said he had two meetings with Mr Nkomo, and also arranged a second meeting with Mr Ian Smith, leader of the Rhodesian Front white caucus of 20 members in the new 100-seat Parliament.

But he spent most of his time today at sessions of the central committee of his Zanu (PF) Party, a body which he punctiliously consults before making decisions.

Mr Mugabe received a telegram of congratulation from Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, today, wishing him every success in forming a broad-based government to work for national unity and reconciliation.

A well-placed source made it clear tonight that there was no

question of Lord Soames staying on after independence day, for three reasons: there was no room for two governments; there was no suitable role for him to fill after being Governor; and his continued presence could be seen as delaying the grant of independence.

Soundings within the British Administration today produced a reaction of pleased surprise at the way things were going and what is identified as the conciliatory approach of Mr Mugabe.

Progress on the most important immediate issue, the integration of the two guerrilla armies and the Rhodesian security forces, is now well in hand, helped by the remarkable immediate decision of Mr Mugabe to allow this to happen under the auspices of Lieutenant-General Peter Walls, the Rhodesian military leader, who will stay on, it is thought, for some months after independence.

The next stage of this process, the bringing together of units of both Zanu, the pro-Mugabe forces, and Zifa (pro-Nkomo) into one camp for training under British monitoring group supervision and with Rhodesian Army participation, will take place "very soon," sources said.

At present a Zanu battalion is being retained in the north-east and a Zifa battalion in the south-west. But the delicate problem of restructuring the High Command to create a fused general staff for a new

national Army has not yet been resolved or even seriously broached.

Although the British rule out a post-independence role for Lord Soames, they emphasize that Britain has no plans to cut and run. Any request for help of any kind will be considered, notably in such areas as the reorganization of the military, the police, the judiciary, the civil service, technical training, the establishment of an agricultural development bank and the like. So far, Mr Mugabe has not drawn up a detailed shopping list.

British officials appear optimistic that the Mugabe Government will apply for membership of the Commonwealth. If it does so, Britain will back the application.

Meanwhile, "waiting for Mugabe" is the name of the game here, and the rumours continue to flourish. One, to the effect that the entire board of ZBEC, the national broadcasting organization, had been flatly denied by ZBEC tonight. There has been a trickle of resignations from the civil service and the security forces, and a subsequent flood is not anticipated at present.

The confusion about ZBEC may have been prompted by the unusual spectacle last night of white announces introducing Mr Mugabe, who was about to address the nation, as "Comrade President R. G. Mugabe," surely a valiant effort to adapt to changing circumstances.

## Three-month revival of imperial rule and then decolonization was enormous, brilliant bluff

## Britain shows right amount of flag

From Dan van der Vat

SALISBURY, March 5.—The British now no longer have an empire to speak of, but the brief, three-month revival of colonial rule in Southern Rhodesia proves they can still be first-class imperialists. In case of need, and even better, decolonisers.

The interim administration imposed by Lord Soames, the Governor, at the end of December is like a thin sheet of celluloid smoothed down over the top of a cushion to stop it blowing over. It worked to such an extent that Lord Soames, who is leader of the Conservative Party in the House of Lords, is now preparing for the peaceful and orderly transfer of power to a Marxist prime minister with all deliberate speed.

To change the metaphor, watching the election campaign, the actual polling and the aftermath up to now has been like an overlong ride on a big dipper. The structure was shaky enough to be capable of sudden collapse at any time, and every now and again a car was derailed, and somebody was flung off. But the ramshackle structure survived the furtive season and is now being packed away until the next time—Belize?

The repositioning of imperial rule here after more than half a

century without British intervention and the decolonization which began at once has really been one enormous, brilliant bluff.

Whatever course Zimbabwe takes after independence is her affair if the word independence has any meaning. What has happened here, before it amounts to a fairly desperate gamble by Mrs Thatcher's Government which, barring an increasingly unlikely last-minute hitch, has paid off.

Lord Soames and his small team of officials arrived here before the ink was dry on a shaky ceasefire agreement, breaking off a vicious race war which had cost at least 20,000 lives. The armistice left three undefeated armies. The Rhodesian security forces and the Zanu and Zifa guerrilla armies—in the field.

To keep them apart, the Governor was given the thin jungle-green line of 1,400 mainly British soldiers in the Commonwealth monitoring group, who parcelled themselves out among the 16 guerrilla assembly camps and scores of Rhodesian military bases. This week their numbers were reduced to just over 200, now all British.

But the public relations masterstroke of the whole affair

Continued on page 8, col 7

camped bristling with weapons up to and including Field artillery and anti-aircraft ammunition in the hands of nervous guerrillas who knew they were most exposed when concentrated.

Instead, the soldiers with red, white and blue shoulder flashes and the white crosses on their Land-Rovers won the confidence of the bush warriors, played cards and football with them, drank beer and swapped yarns with them, exchanged items of uniform and lived with them without a single noteworthy incident.

It would be difficult to gainsay what Lord Soames wrote in his letter of thanks to them: "The task which you have been performing is unique in the annals of military and political history... Nobody has ever before even attempted what you have now achieved with such notable success."

The monitoring operation, organized by the British and ably supported by Australians, New Zealanders, Fijians and Kenyans, has been a success based on courageous bluff and the British Army's image nothing but good.

But the public relations masterstroke of the whole affair

Although the Nine have not yet formally recognized the

Continued on page 8, col 7

## Motorists may be hardest hit in Budget

Motorists are likely to be harder hit in the Budget than smokers or drinkers, if the Chancellor decides to raise indirect taxes. Increasing petrol and car taxes would produce more money, yet minimise the inflationary impact. Increasing petrol taxes in line with inflation would raise £40m but only push up the retail price index by 0.3 points. A similar increase in tobacco tax would raise £230m but increase the RPI by 0.4 points.

Prior warning

A warning that he would resign if overridden by Cabinet hawks on his approach to trade union reform was given by Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment, in the Commons. He was speaking in the context of the treatment given to Mr Eric Varley, former Labour minister over Chrysler.

Spionage fear

A Tory MP has called for a government review of Eastern-block trade inspectors temporarily living in Britain. He fears they may be used for espionage and that for the Soviet Union it could be a way of replacing diplomats expelled in 1971 for spying.

Catholic tensions

An outbreak of controversy is expected in May at a congress in Liverpool of the Roman Catholic community in England. A survey disclosed sharp tension over divorce and contraception, where officials teaching and attitudes are at odds with the feeling of many Catholics.

## Commuter services investigation

An inquiry into London's commuter services will focus on British Rail's efficiency, the terms of reference, published yesterday, show. It will be conducted by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission under the Competition Bill, which is expected to become law this month. The Minister of Transport said that the quality of services had declined.

Continued on page 8, col 7

Countryman forecast

Up to 25 police officers could be prosed as a result of the Operation Countryman inquiry into allegations of police corruption in London, Mr Arthur Hamblton, former Chief Constable of Essex and an adviser to the inquiry, said. Those under investigation went up to "a very high rank."

Alberta: Five-page Special Report on the growth of one of Canada's western provinces.

Classified advertisements: Appointments, page 11; La crème de la crème, 30; Personal, 31, 32.

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Theatre, etc 12

## HOME NEWS

## Up to 25 London police officers may be prosecuted, adviser to Countryman inquiry says

By Craig Seton

Between 20 and 25 police officers could be prosecuted as a result of the Operation Countryman inquiry into allegations of police corruption in London. Mr Arthur Hambleton, who retired as Chief Constable of Dorset last week, said yesterday.

Mr Hambleton, who was effectively an adviser to the Countryman operation, said on BBC radio that criminals had made allegations against about 30 officers. Those under investigation did not go up to assistant commissioner level, but did go up to "a very high rank".

He had been staggered to see how many policemen had been the subject of complaints and thought that when the inquiry ended the public was going to think it had been a disingenuous business.

The number of officers who would have to account for their actions "depends on whether the evidence comes up to scratch". Some of the officers investigated had been cleared.

Mr Hambleton said of the office of the Director of Public Prosecutions: "To some allegations had little foundation and in other cases they had been evidence to support charges."

Mr Hambleton, whose assistant chief constable in Dorset, Mr Lenhard Burt, was until recently the head of Operation Countryman, spoke of the difficulties the investigation had encountered and said that he was not happy with its progress.

"It is true to say that on occasions some of the middle rank and lower ranks have not been very helpful," he said. "They had not told the inquiry things about which they had been asked and they had not produced documents when they were requested, but none of these difficulties had lasted."

The inquiry had received very good cooperation from Sir David McNee, Metropolitan Police Commissioner.

When a senior officer "had not given us the cooperation we could have expected", Sir David had moved him. He believed that there was an understandable element of self-protection among officers, which the deputy chief constable, who has been seconded,

## MPs call in Mr Scargill for views on picketing

By Donald MacIntyre

Mr Arthur Scargill, president of the Yorkshire area of the National Union of Mineworkers, is to be called before a House of Commons select committee to explain his attitude to picketing and the Employment Bill.

But employers will face real difficulties if as soon as officials believe the strike continues for another eight to 12 weeks and the impact on the British Steel Corporation's own business will be massive.

The latest survey conducted by the Confederation of British Industry suggests that manu-

## Steel users keep up show of confidence

By Our Industrial Staff

Short-time working and layoffs in manufacturing industry are becoming more widespread as the steel strike moves towards its eleventh week, but industry remains outwardly confident that overall levels of production can be maintained, certainly to the end of this month and in many cases beyond.

But employers will face real difficulties if as soon as officials believe the strike continues for another eight to 12 weeks and the impact on the British Steel Corporation's own business will be massive.

The latest survey conducted by the Confederation of British Industry suggests that manu-

facturing production for at least another eight to 12 weeks, our employees and managers would have to understand that we would not have a business and I refuse to believe that anyone in the BSC would want that.

The Association of British Chambers of Commerce, yesterday, voiced support for the BSC's position in its negotiations and warned against the Government attempting to intervene. Although it recognized the long-term damage that would be inflicted on industry, the ABCC said that far greater damage would be caused to the economy if union demands involving even greater subsidies from the taxpayer were conceded.

The impact of the strike has so far been mainly felt by can producers, particularly Metal Box (BSC's largest customer for tinsplate) and increasingly by food cameras. But the reverberations of the strike are now being felt elsewhere.

In the North-west, about 2,000 workers at the Metal Box company plant at Westhoughton, Lancashire, have been laid off elsewhere in the region the heavy concentration of engineering firms appears to be surviving the strike without much difficulty, although if the steelworkers stay out for several more weeks, many engineering firms will be in serious trouble.

The regional office of the Engineering Employers' Federation has been operating a "steel swap shop" which has helped to keep production lines going.

In the Midlands, badly hit by the British Leyland layoffs, the Department of Employment's local office estimated that 3,000 workers were laid off and a further 6,000 in the

region were on short-time working because of the strike. The office said that it was possible that many more have been affected but so far no formal notification had been given.

However, confirmation that steel imports are continuing to flow into the United Kingdom was given by one large Black Country steel manufacturer.

There is a great deal of steel coming in in closed containers, in general filled with vegetables and in fishing boats.

It is quite amazing the ingenuity being shown by shipper and shipping agents", the company said. The main worry is giving the Transport and General Workers Union may instruct lorry drivers to refuse to handle steel.

In Wales, more than 5,500 workers have applied for temporary social security benefits. This figure does not include the 38,000 workers employed by BSC's Welsh division.

The hardest hit have been the members of the regional Road Haulage Association and yesterday, Mr Peter Webb, regional secretary of the RHA, estimated that 1,000 out of 2,800 lorries have not turned a wheel since the strike began on January 2.

Between 5 and 10 per cent of companies affiliated to the Engineering Employers' Federation in Wales have laid off workers because of the strike and among the hardest hit are the Metal Box plant at Neath, which has laid off 1,000 workers.

There is real concern that the level of redundancies will rise sharply.

Engineering and alternative sources for steel appear to be surviving the strike without much difficulty, although if the steelworkers stay out for several more weeks, many engineering firms will be in serious trouble.

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Mr Michael Mallett, chairman of the Yorkshire and Humberside regional council of the CBI, said that by and large the only people who had to reduce their level of production were those directly concerned with tinsplate, those who made metal boxes or used cans for food.

Everybody appeared to be looking after their mainstream requirements.

Mr Nicholas Kenny, of the Engineering Employers' Association of Sheffield, said the effects of the steel strike were "fairly minimal" though the situation could change rapidly.

Mr Ronald Taylor, of the Yorkshire and Humberside Association of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, said a survey revealed that nine companies would have to close down production in March because of steel shortages and another 10 would have to lay people off, though some of these were suppliers to BSC rather than steel users.

He said that generally speaking the steel industry was in a better position than the rest of the economy.

Mr Taylor said that nine companies would have to close down production in March because of steel shortages and another 10 would have to lay people off, though some of these were suppliers to BSC rather than steel users.

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**Imported Office Equipment**

1979

Hand held Calculators	72%
Ballpoint pens	60%
Typewriters	71%

**Imported Household Goods**

1979

Toys/Games	51%
Heated Rollers	99%
Hairdryers	78%
Mirrors	60%
Clocks	61%
Furniture	22%
Carpets	16%
Vacuum Cleaners	31%

**Imported Kitchen Equipment**

1979

Dry Irons	45%
Domestic Glassware	66%
Cutlery	70%
Saucepans/Frying Pans	36%
Kitchen Knives	40%
Toasters	61%
Electric Cookers	21%
Hand held Mixers	58%

**Imported White Goods**

1979

Dishwashers	99%
Fridge Freezers	68%
Automatic Washing Machines	44%
Refrigerators	32%
Spin Dryers	28%

**Imported Clothing/Accessories**

1979

Footwear	34%
Luggage (leather)	57%
Handbags (leather)	72%
Mens/Boys Tailored Outerwear	33%
Womens/Girls Outerwear	28%
Mens Shirts/Overalls	38%

**Imported Leisure Equipment**

1979

Sports Equipment	74%
Bicycles	30%

**Imported Audio Visual**

1979

Television B & W	50%
Television Colour	27%
Portable Televisions	53%
Record Players/Decks	51%
Portable Radios	96%
Music Centres	66%

**Imported Vehicles**

1979

Cars	56%
Commercial Vehicles	23%

**Import Trends**

1970 1979

Agricultural Machinery	22%	44%
Machine Tools	28%	48%
Construction Equipment	40%	71%
Mechanical Engineering	19%	32%
Textiles	14%	33%

**BUY NOW, PAY LATER.**

Businesses import to outside Britain and we pay twice.

One industry is at risk. And when we're talking about the unemployment we're talking thousands.

Each time we choose a foreign made product rather than one made at home, we drive another nail in Britain's industrial coffin. So why do we buy so many foreign made goods?

It's not that there is sometimes no real choice. While industries that once flourished in Britain no longer exist.

And the trend for many other industries is looking increasingly unhealthy.

Things would be quite so bad if we were able to find our way out of trouble. But our

exports are only growing at one tenth of the rate of our imports.

Right now it must be sensible for us to stop trying to pin the blame on each other. And start trying to put things right instead.

We could all make a start by buying British whenever possible.

This doesn't mean that we should choose British goods out of blind patriotism.

But that we should never ignore a British made product in the mistaken belief that it cannot be as good as a foreign one.

Foreigners find our defeatist attitude amusing. And extremely profitable.

They instinctively support their own industries by choosing home produced goods.

Which is almost certainly why the problem is unique to Britain.

One industry at risk right now is the motor industry. An industry whose importance to Britain cannot be overestimated.

It brings employment to millions of workers. It trains most of our engineers. Indeed it is our biggest single manufacturing industry.

BL is the only British owned volume car maker. The other large manufacturers can, and do, switch car production away from Britain.

Not so BL.

Which is why it's so important for BL to succeed. And remain British owned.

Of course BL would have a tremendous amount to gain from a shift in attitude towards

the British buying British.

But the problem doesn't just belong to the motor industry.

It affects us all. And it's striking deeper and deeper every day.

Not too long ago, our standard of living was the highest in the world.

Now we're not even in the top twenty.

The climb back will not be easy. But we can all begin today by taking a fresh look at British manufactured goods.

Next time you're looking to buy *anything*, but especially a motor car, see how the British product stacks up first. If then you find it doesn't suit you, we'll be surprised. But we'll have no complaints.

## HOME NEWS

## Severn estuary tidal power barrage 'technically feasible'

By Our Technology Editor

Construction of a tidal barrage across the Severn estuary to generate electricity was technically feasible "at a range of positions as far seawards as across to the west of Minehead", the Government said yesterday.

Mr John Moore, Parliamentary Under-Secretary at the Department of Energy, said in a parliamentary reply that the technical feasibility had been established by a Severn Barrage Committee, formed in August 1978, under the chairmanship of Sir Hermann Bondi, chief scientist of the department.

The committee had selected in its interim progress report two possible barrage lines for single-basin, co-generation schemes. The westward scheme would run between Minehead and Aberdovey and would develop the full energy potential.

The easterly scheme would run between Weston-super-Mare and Cardiff and might prove the more economic.

Assessment of the more complicated double-basin designs are continuing, Mr Moore said. Solutions to some of the potential environmental problems had been identified, but much further work remained to be done. There were potential opportunities for recreational developments.

Mr Moore said of the economics of the proposed schemes: "The economic calculations of the costs and benefits are subject to large uncertainties, but although it has been shown that the output from a given sized barrage could be substantially greater than was previously thought, it still appears unlikely to provide electricity at competitive costs when compared with generation using nuclear reactors at present costs."

"It might, however, be more competitive with electricity generated from fossil fuels if fossil fuel prices continue to rise in real terms."

Further work was needed to complete the pre-feasibility study in order to identify the main environmental and engineering questions which still remained unanswered, Mr Moore said. Most of this work should be completed this year.

Total cost of the "pre-feasibility study" is put at about £25m, an increase of about £1m over the previous estimate.

## Control units in jails 'not like segregation'

By Annabel Ferriman

Experimental control units set up by the Home Office in 1974 were quite different from the normal segregation cells used on occasions to isolate prisoners in all British prisons, Professor Lawrence Taylor, professor of sociology at York University, told the High Court yesterday.

Professor Taylor said that when a prisoner is relegated to a segregation cell under prison rule 43, he is frequently allowed association with other prisoners and can often take with him his own books, a radio and sometimes even a record player.

Professor Taylor, who has written extensively about prisons, was giving evidence in support of Mr Michael Williams, a prisoner who spent 180 days in a control unit at Wakefield Prison in 1974-75 and who is suing the Home Office, claiming that the regime is illegal.

There was a greater degree of visual deprivation in the control units than in the segregation cells, Professor Taylor told Mr Justice Tudor Evans.

"The place struck me as rather like a concrete vault. It was difficult to imagine a greater degree of visual deprivation and what was particularly disturbing was that it was planned visual deprivation."

The hearing continues today.

## Prince Charles to race again

The Prince of Wales, who finished second at Plumpton on Tuesday in his race-riding debut, will ride at Sandown on Saturday in a steeplechase for amateurs.

The Prince will ride Sea Swell for Mr Nick Gazeley, a Lambourn trainer, in the Duke of Gloucester Memorial Trophy. One leading bookmaker was offering odds of 10-1 yesterday against a royal win.

## Guard on girl after mother's murder

Police guarded Amanda Lowson, aged four, in hospital yesterday. She is the key witness in the hunt for her mother's killer.

The girl had to be dragged clear of her blazing home at Colestree, Stevenage, Hertfordshire, after the killer had strangled her mother and started the fire early on Tuesday.

Mrs Susan Lowson, aged 25, was found dead in bed and the girl later told neighbours she saw a man setting fire to her mother's bed. A post-mortem

examination showed that Mrs Lowson had been strangled.

Det Sergeant Robin Younger, joint deputy head of Hertfordshire CID, said: "It is a very callous murder. We think he deliberately started the blaze knowing that the little girl was at home and had no way of getting out."

"She has already given us some information and we hope to see her again."

The police have issued a description of a man they would like to interview. He is of normal height and build, has

dark hair and may have a moustache. He may have been wearing a light coloured sweater and was seen running away from the house at about 6.30 am on Tuesday.

When Mr David Lowson, aged 22, the girl's father, saw her in hospital it was the first time he had seen her for almost two years. He and his wife separated in 1978 after three years of marriage. He said: "I am going to bring her up."

Mr Lowson lives with his parents in The Paddocks, Stevenage. Until yesterday's hearing Miss Lovelock, of Cranham, Uppminster, Essex, had argued

her case in person, but now she has engaged counsel. She asked Mr Justice Willis to quash two compulsory purchase orders made on green belt land for the motorway.

Mr Paul Teverson, her coun-

sel, said the first of the two

compulsory purchase orders,

made by the Minister of Transport last September, affected land between the North Okkerden and Nags Head Lane section of the A13-A12.

The second affected section

between Nags Head Lane and Brook Street, Brentwood.

Mr Teverson said: "It is a matter of considerable social concern that green belt land should be used by the Minister of Transport for construction of the M25".

He submitted that in making the compulsory purchase orders, the Minister of Transport did not comply with the requirements of certain Acts.

The first three public notices published in the autumn of 1978 did not give potential objectors the statutory 14 days in which to lodge objections.

The hearing continues today.

PC killed by cables

Police Constable George Garrett, aged 27, was killed by electric shock yesterday while investigating vandalism on a train parked in sidings at Paisley, Strathclyde. He touched overhead cables.

## Lightship death

The body of Mr S McClary, aged 27, who disappeared from the Seven lightship off Lands End recovered yesterday from sea nearby.

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## MPS' defence group wants sub-committee

By David Felton  
Labour Staff

The House of Commons Select Committee on Defence submitted a report to the House yesterday asking for the power to appoint a sub-committee.

Their report states: "The responsibilities of the Ministry of Defence are extremely wide. They range from strategic defence policy to the supervision of numerous procurement projects and involve a budget of £8,462,513,000 in 1979-80."

The committee, under the chairmanship of Sir John Langford-Holm, Conservative MP for Shrewsbury, points out that its size (11 MPs) is the same as that of three other committees (Foreign Affairs, Home Affairs and Treasury) which have been given the power to appoint a sub-committee.

"We intend only to form the sub-committee as required by the pressure and progress of our work. It is not our intention to expand our work simply for the sake of so doing," the report states.

A sub-committee would be able to make visits overseas without interrupting all the inquiries being pursued by the main committee.

"It will be more efficient and economical if MPs are able to concentrate on particular aspects.

First Special Report of the Defence Committee, Session 1979-80 (Stationery Office, 50p). TAYLOR ms380

## Move to close Tube section

London Transport is to seek closure of a six-mile section of the Central Underground line in Essex.

The section, between Epping and Ongar, carries only about 650 passengers in each direction every weekday, most of them in the peak period. London Transport said yesterday: "Despite the charging of premium fares, the line loses more than £600,000 a year, including fixed costs."

The evidence was given to a sub-committee under the chairmanship of Mr Alexander Lyon, Labour MP for York. The committee's report says it felt that the Committee should be aware of the opinions of a number of lawyers before making a final

## Civil Service union fears pay curb

The union said yesterday that pay negotiations with the Civil Service Department had virtually come to a halt because of the immobility of an announced 4 per cent cash limit. The society claims that reports by the unit show that increases of between 22 and 25 per cent are due.

A confidential report from the Government Actuary shows that this year pay increases should be reduced by 3.8 per cent to take account of the index-linked pensions enjoyed by civil servants. Last year the actuary's discount figure was 2.6 per cent.

The main sticking point in negotiations has been the difference between union and Government calculations of the value of fringe benefits, such as 5 per cent mortgages and free medical insurance.

The unions fear that the Government may demand job

## Trade inspectors may be spies, MP says

By David Nicholson-Lord

A Government review of the European "trade inspectors" temporarily resident in Britain has been called for by a Conservative MP who fears they may be used for espionage.

Mr Cyril Townsend, MP for Bexley, Bexleyheath, said yesterday that he would be seeking an adjournment debate on the numbers of Eastern-block inspectors whose official role is to check goods and equipment being manufactured under export contracts.

In a series of parliamentary questions this past month, Mr Townsend has elicited from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office that there are 68 inspectors from the Soviet Union but that figures for other East European countries were not available. Of the 68, about 50 are accompanied by their families and many live outside London, including three in Northern Ireland.

Mr Townsend described the numbers as high and said he was opposed to the concept which permitted the Soviet Union to send inspectors here to examine contracts. It could be a way of replacing the 105 diplomats expelled in 1971 for industrial and other forms of espionage, he added.

A spokesman for the Corporation, which has a history of exporting Soviet Union and is running two defence plants with a combined value of \$123m, said normal in a large company is a representative of the corporation.

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70 Miss 150

## HOME NEWS

**BR commuter services inquiry will focus on efficiency**By Kenneth Dally  
Transport Correspondent

Details of the inquiry into London's deteriorating rail commuter services to be conducted by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission this summer were announced yesterday.

It will be carried out under the Competition Bill, which is expected to receive Royal Assent later this month and should be published in the autumn.

Although British Rail, which welcomed the inquiry last night, is hoping that it will lead to increased government support to improve the quality of the service, the terms of reference are focused on BR's efficiency and particularly the area of productivity and restrictive practices.

Mr Norman Fowler, Minister of Transport, said: "There is no doubt that the quality of commuter services in London and the South-east has declined over the past few years.

Commuters have faced rising fares, but less reliable and less punctual services. The essential question is, does it have to be like that?"

Mr Fowler saw the inquiry, the first under the Government's new powers to examine the efficiency and monopoly role of nationalised industries, as an important step in identifying measures needed to obtain better value for money.

The commission will examine the extent to which any deficiency in the services is due to inefficiency, scope for improvements in efficiency and man-

**Belvoir plan 'gamble with countryside'**

Mining in the Vale of Belvoir would damage the environment for ever, and if tipping were allowed as well it would amount to "gambling" with the Leicestershire countryside, Mr Christopher Symons, counsel for the Countryside Commission, said yesterday.

If mining were permitted, the vale and the surrounding areas would be dramatically changed for the worse, he told a public inquiry into the National Coal Board's mining plan for the Vale of Belvoir on the borders of Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire and Lincolnshire.

If permission were refused, the coal would still be there should the need ever be sufficient to justify the damage which would be caused, Mr Symons said.

The impact on the environment could be lessened by transferring spoil to the derelict clay pits in Marston Vale, Bedfordshire. Tipping there would be expensive, but it would represent only about 3 per cent of the total cost of mining the coal.

A six-point plan was put forward by Mr Frank Watmough, Countryside Commission official. One point, he said, was that the Coal Board should produce a 75-year tipping scheme acceptable to the planning authorities.

The others were: the appointment of a civil engineer to supervise tipping; the appointment of a restoration manager; the setting up of working parties to deal with main environment issues; countryside management to lessen the effect of mining and tipping, which would include tree planting and other landscaping work; the setting up of an independent landscape agency to coordinate all countryside management.

The inquiry is being held at Stoke Rochford Hall, near Grantham, Lincolnshire.

**Call to close loopholes in trade description law**By Robin Young  
Consumer Affairs Correspondent

A call to tighten the Trade Descriptions Act is made in the March issue of *Which?*, published today by the Consumers Association.

An article in the magazine describes loopholes in the Act, particularly in the rules about descriptions of services. It points out, for example, that it is not an offence for a package tour operator to feature an hotel swimming pool in the brochure even if it is unusable or does not exist when holidaymakers arrive.

Where goods are concerned traders have to check all their

**Aim to free docks board from State**

By Our Transport Correspondent

The Government intends to "denationalise" the successful British Transport Docks Board, Mr Norman Fowler, Minister of Transport, said yesterday in a written Commons answer.

The board runs a quarter of the country's ports, including Southampton, Hull and South Wales, and has raised profits steadily in recent years, from £17m after tax and charges in 1973 to £7m in 1978.

Mr Fowler said he had invited Sir Humphrey Browne, docks board chairman, to consult and report on ways of introducing private capital into the undertaking, which would not be broken up.

It was intended not principally as a money-raising exercise, he said later, but to give the board greater commercial freedom and flexibility to build on its past success. The Government wanted to reduce the public sector wherever possible, as proposed with the National Freight Corporation and British Rail subsidiaries.

At present the docks board was subject, like other state undertakings in time of financial stringency, to government cash limits which might inhibit its freedom to take advantage of market opportunities.

Sir Humphrey said last night he would prefer not to comment on the proposal until he had consulted the unions, but he was very pleased the Government did not want to break up the undertaking. A fair estimate of the board's recent financial performance, he suggested, was for pre-tax profits up from £2m in 1973 to £23m in 1978, after returning additional depreciation.

Legislation to set up the board as a company and replace its £93m government debt with a mixture of equity and fixed-interest capital was envisaged towards the end of this year, Mr Fowler said.

**Municipal mix-up leaves widow with empty home**From Our Correspondent  
Portsmouth

Mrs Kewya Woodcock, aged 74, moved out of her flat for council staff to mend a water leak. When she went back to her home in Arundel Street, Portsmouth, everything had gone. Council workers had taken away her clothes, furniture, personal things, and even food from her larder by mistake more than a week before.

A relative said: "She has no one left. She has lost all the memories of bringing up a family. Her granddaughter is getting married next week and the present she had got them has gone as well."

Council officials have promised Mrs Woodcock a new home, furniture and money to cover

immediate expenses while solicitors sort out compensation.

Mr Ray Kirby, Portsmouth City Council housing director, said: "We are very concerned. It is very much regretted. We can fully understand Mrs Woodcock's feelings."

It is thought repair men in the city engineer's department were given the wrong set of keys, and went to Mrs Woodcock's flat by mistake.

A washing machine only 18 months old was thrown away as well as a gold watch which was a present from her late husband.

Mrs Woodcock's son-in-law said: "The council accepts full responsibility. I think it is one of those things. She doesn't want to go back there now."

Council officials have promised Mrs Woodcock a new home, furniture and money to cover

**NGA to meet employers today on pay claim**

By Our Labour Staff

Talks will take place today in the hope of averting possible industrial action in provincial newspapers and the general printing industry.

Union negotiators will be seeking substantial improvements to a 14.6 per cent pay offer in response to a claim by the National Graphical Association for 28 per cent.

The NGA, which threatened to boycott today's talks, will however, be going to the meeting with the Newspaper Society and the British Printing Industries Federation.

Most print unions have told the Newspaper Publishers Association, the employers' organization for national papers, that their members have accepted a 14 per cent offer made up of 13 per cent from January 1, and 1 per cent from July 1.

Negotiations are expected to take place at local offices for further increases in return for improvements in productivity.

Of the three biggest unions in the industry, the members of the NGA accepted the offer by a three-to-one majority; and the National Society of Printers, Graphical and Media Personnel have announced decisive acceptance, despite an executive recommendation to reject the offer.

The Society of Graphical and Allied Trades has not announced the results of its ballot on the offer, but that is believed to favour acceptance.

First, get in touch with the information provider (IP), the

**Tension is disclosed as Roman Catholics in England launch a frank inquiry****Clash on divorce and contraception likely at congress**By Clifford Longley  
Religious Affairs Correspondent

The Roman Catholic community in England has launched itself into a self-examination of extraordinary frankness, leading up to a national assembly in Liverpool in May. It will be the first democratic and representative meeting of its kind.

The first glimpse of the character of this National Pastoral Congress came yesterday with the publication of summaries of grass-roots feeling on a range of issues.

One of the key sections draws attention sharply to tension over divorce and contraception, where official practice and teaching are at odds with the attitudes of many Roman Catholics.

In all other matters there is far greater alignment between the official position and ordinary attitudes, and the scene seems to be set for an outbreak of controversy.

Many Catholics have a crisis of conscience about contraception", it states. "It is fairly widely practised; scrupulous people leave the sacraments because of it; other people sort out their own attitudes, remain at the sacraments, but feel ill at ease."

The lack of pastoral guidance is keenly felt. It is frequently remarked that priests

are unwilling or unable to discuss the issue, so that individuals are left to their own guidance without help. The church seems to some to be not a caring mother but a hard taskmaster in this matter."

Almost every diocese submitted a survey of opinion which called for a re-examination of policy towards the divorced, many asking that they be admitted to the sacraments.

One report commented: "The church forgives anything, even murder; but not remarriage."

These contentious matters aside, at a general level of comments on active issues denounces the Roman Catholic Church in England as strongly motivated and cohesive, but also constructively critical about almost every aspect of its life.

Priests are frequently taken to task for the inadequacy of their preaching and their resistance to lay participation; there is a general demand for a better quality of leadership, for

a stronger sense of community (parishes and dioceses are not thought by some to be far too large) and for the means reserved for the heightened sense of commitment to Christianity. Many appear to feel insufficiently challenged and tested.

That group includes Catholics in the armed forces, and there is an incipient conflict apparent from the summaries on the use of military force. The moral aspects of nuclear weapons were raised by many of the surveys, and there was a clear dislike of international arms trading.

On some political matters, however, Catholic opinion appears confused; and there was a considerable void in the surveys about employment and industry, which appear to raise no moral or spiritual issues for Catholics in general.

The congress is to be marked by a national peal of bells and simultaneous services in all Roman Catholic churches in England at the time of its opening.

**Prestel offers guidance to complainants**

By Kenneth Owen

Mills & Allen Communications, the company which earlier this week withdrew its "Buyer's guide to dirty books" pages from the Post Office's Prestel viewdata service after complaints and a police raid on one of the Soho bookshops recommended in the guide, has provided a new set of Prestel pages which explain: "How to complain about a Prestel page".

First, get in touch with the information provider (IP), the

company advises (Mills & Allen was the IP in the case of the buyer's guide). If you do not get a satisfactory response, get in touch with the Association of Viewdata Information Providers (AVIP).

If the offending IP is a member of AVIP, the association's complaints committee will deal with the matter. If a non-member, the complainant will be referred to the Post Office.

Another page outlines what you can complain about. If you

find a page grossly offensive,

for example, the IP will either remove it himself or refer you to AVIP.

AVIP has more than 80 members. One of its aims is to promote and uphold standards among members through their Code of Practice.

Another Mills & Allen page states: "Mills & Allen have suspended Rupert Street-Walker's guide to Soho bookshops pending clarification of the legal position". Mr Street-Walker was the nom de plume of the author

**Rocket fuel waste disposal halted for blast inquiry**

factory which has been run by Imperial Metal Industries for the Ministry of Defence since it opened in 1951.

IMI said the company would pay compensation to residents at Somertonfield, Worcestershire, whose homes were damaged by the explosion. Tiles were ripped off and windows shattered.

Three people were taken to hospital with minor injuries.

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## HOME NEWS

## Councils keep down spending by cutting services while leaving bureaucracies intact

By Christopher Warman  
Local Government Correspondent

Most councils in England and Wales have made spending cuts this year in accordance with the Government's guidelines, but they have failed to reduce their staffs by an equivalent amount, a survey by the Conservative Central Office has disclosed.

The result in many cases is that councils have made severe cuts in services while keeping their bureaucracies intact, Sir Frank Marshall, a Conservative vice-chairman, believes.

There are some notable exceptions, largely among Conservative-controlled authorities. Labour authorities have been allowed to make any cut in services or to reduce their

staffs.

The survey was set up by Sir Frank, who was concerned by what appeared to be the Government's hostility towards local government as evidenced by its proposals for further control of local expenditure.

The first findings, reported in *The Times* on January 14,

showed a broad picture of determination, particularly by Conservative authorities, to reduce spending by 3 per cent (£110,000) although its staff has been reduced by only four.

Derby, Labour-controlled, has made cuts of 8.6 per cent (£472,000) and 58 staff.

Conservative Barnet is in Greater London reported 1.5 per cent savings (£983,000) with no staff cuts and North Yorkshire, which has made a 5 per cent cut worth £7.7m, has also kept its staff intact. Derbyshire has achieved cuts of 2.4 per cent (£2.5m), but has increased its staff by 301.

A more detailed view has emerged from the returns of about three-fifths of the 456 authorities, of which most came from Conservative-controlled councils.

Only three Conservative councils—Wyre (Lancashire), Harrogate (North Yorkshire) and Wokingham (Berkshire)—admit to having made no reductions in spending, although Wyre has trimmed its staff by 12.

Many of the Labour councils included in the survey have chosen to make cuts this year and two have increased their expenditure.

Langsborough (Cleveland) has increased its spending by 8 per cent and Crawley (West Sussex) by 6.7 per cent.

Councils in general have kept fairly close to the 3 per cent target of cuts, but many districts have made spectacular savings.

Alnwick

## OVERSEAS

## Publisher's murder is new blow to press freedom in Lebanon

From Robert Fisk  
Beirut, March 5

The brutal murder of Mr Selim El-Louzi, the Lebanese publisher of the magazine *Al Hawa*, has sent shock waves through the journalistic establishment in Beirut and prompted the minister to describe the killing as "the murder of the free word".

In a country which likes to reward its press not always with complete justification, as among the friends in the Arab world, Mr El-Louzi's death is going to affect the critical language of many columnists here, particularly their scepticism over the Syrian presence in Lebanon.

This morning, the newspaper *Al Bayan*, a conservative daily owned by the president of Lebanon's Reporters' Association, went so far as to urge journalists to leave the country because Lebanon is no longer a haven for press freedom.

Mr El-Louzi, whose magazine had carried a long article on Syria in its January issue with the headline "Why does the regime tell lies?", planned on this cover, was kidnapped 10 days ago within sight of two Syrian Army checkpoints near Beirut airport.

Neither the Syrian nor the Lebanese authorities have given any indication who might have been responsible for the murder.

Mr El-Louzi was shot twice in the head and his right hand was skinned or dipped in acid, apparently before he was killed.

Mr Selim El-Hoss, the Lebanese Prime Minister, described Mr El-Louzi's murder as "a

horrendous, gruesome crime".

Mr. Nuzen Kadri, the acting Interior Minister, condemned what he called "this ugly crime, which represents a serious attack on freedom".

Just how serious a blow the murder has struck at the freedom of the press in Lebanon remains to be seen. Newspapers and magazines here have rarely treated "Arab or world affairs with the impartiality to which many journals in the West claim to aspire".

Large amounts of money flow into several left-wing newspapers, for example, particularly from Libya and Iraq. Only because this journalistic prostitution has been balanced by cash from conservative Arab states, funnelled into other papers has Lebanon been able to claim that its press represents all points of view.

The "Pavlova" dessert is made from egg white, sugar and cream and is baked for about an hour. The base, when shrink-wrapped, keeps fresh for several weeks and can be topped with whipped cream, strawberries, pineapple, cherries or other fresh or dried fruit.

This gourmet export coincides with a campaign in Australia to expand kangaroo meat exports to Asia as a substitute for beef.

## Hongkong samples Australia's Pavlova

From Our Correspondent  
Hongkong, March 5

Gourmets in Hongkong are tasting for the first time "Pavlova", regarded as Australia's national dessert. This soft, marshmallow-centred dish with crisp meringue crust has never been on sale here before.

It was created to honour Anna Pavlova, the Russian ballerina, who visited Australia in the late 1920s. Its sole exporting agent in Australia is known as Swan Lake Pavlova, which has perplexed a local Chinese preoccupied with anti-Moscow sentiment over Afghanistan and the Olympic Games.

Swan Lake Pavlova will fly in the Australian product each week and hopes to establish a Hongkong partnership for local production when Chinese demand is established.

The "Pavlova" dessert is made from egg white, sugar and cream and is baked for about an hour. The base, when shrink-wrapped, keeps fresh for several weeks and can be topped with whipped cream, strawberries, pineapple, cherries or other fresh or dried fruit.

This gourmet export coincides with a campaign in Australia to expand kangaroo meat exports to Asia as a substitute for beef.

## 10 die in blizzard

Amman, March 5.—At least 10 people died and many were injured in a blizzard which hit Jordan for two days.

## Urban violence closer as Army suppresses protest

## Heavy-handed rule in Colombia

By Roger Plant

hitherto divided, urban unions waged a national strike which severely shook the Government.

In the rural areas peasant organizations, originally encouraged as a political support group against landowners by a president committed to agrarian reform in the late sixties, had become a serious political threat in the early 1970s when land distribution terminated. Subsequent policies favoured agro-industrialists and relied on World Bank projects aimed at the middle farmer to stem the tide of peasant unrest. After a peasant march on Bogotá, governments used heavy-handed tactics to deal with land invasions tolerated until then.

Such policies left a growing itinerant labour force in the city slums, and an increasingly militant peasantry on the side of large landowners, who have extended their holdings in recent years at the expense of peasant farmers; and it has effectively outlawed such indigenous groups as the Regional Council of Caucá Indians.

Within a month of taking office he enacted a Security Statute which granted sweeping powers to the military, and made permanent the emergency provision which had been used intermittently under previous state of siege legislation.

During the 1978 elections, rumours of a military coup were commonplace. The military had been frustrated at what it saw as the weakness of civilian presidents, in the face of continuing guerrilla activities and growing social unrest in both urban and rural areas. In September, 1977, Colombia's

Court, which quashed the military sentences on the grounds of torture and judicial irregularities, and severely damaged military prestige.

The new Security Statute now grants military courts permanent jurisdiction over a broad range of offences categorized as subversive, ranging from rebellion to land invasions and the disturbance of public order, with penalties greatly raised in all cases. Meantime President Turbay has made moves against judicial independence, replacing the traditional system by which the Supreme Court elects its own members with one by which Congress selects the judges from a list previously submitted by the President.

In providing for land invaders, the Statute has placed the Government ever more firmly on the side of large landowners, who have extended their holdings in recent years at the expense of peasant farmers; and it has effectively outlawed such indigenous groups as the Regional Council of Caucá Indians.

However, while rural representation has long been a fact of the country's political life, it is the Army's excesses in urban areas which have aroused international attention. The Statute has been invoked to curb strike action in the public sector, and has placed a considerable number of trade-unionists behind bars.

Conditions are ripe for urban violence, with mushrooming shanty towns in several cities, and these are becoming more so as conventional forms of social protest are stifled.

## Three Turks killed in acts of violence involving militants of both extremes

From Sinan Fisik  
Ankara, March 5

The Army intervened and a curfew was imposed in the northern Anatolian town of Zile today after one person was killed and shops and other buildings were burnt and looted.

In Istanbul, terrorists believed to be leftists, killed two soldiers during a bank robbery.

The incidents in Zile, about 300 miles east of Ankara, began with a fight between two student groups and rapidly turned into a gun battle, followed by a visit, Government sources reported. The fighting spread to the town and the Supreme Court elects its own members with one by which Congress selects the judges from a list previously submitted by the President.

The robbery in Istanbul took place near the covered bazaar, one of the city's most crowded areas. Four terrorists, one of them a young woman, entered a bank with automatic weapons and shot down the guard, a gendarme's paratrooper, who died on the spot.

They machine-gunned another soldier who was patrolling near by, and he died on the way to hospital. Failing to open the safe of the bank, they escaped the safe of the bank with only 118,000 Turkish lira (£750), taking the dead soldiers' guns with them.

In Anadolu, on the Mediterranean coast, a six-year-old boy died and two other children were seriously wounded when an explosive device they found in an empty lot exploded.

Police arrested a man living near by, who had a record of keeping explosives at his home.

belonged to RPP followers". He added: "Our party headquarters has been totally demolished." He feared the death toll would rise.

Mr Kutluer was being sent to Ankara for treatment. The situation was said to have calmed down after military reinforcements from neighbouring provinces intervened and a curfew was imposed. However the Anatolian News Agency reported from Zile that "few people appear to be obeying the current order".

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## Retaliation for terror directed at peace force

From Christopher Walker  
Jerusalem, March 5

A United Nations spokesman tonight expressed "serious concern" about the deterioration of security in south Lebanon after a day in which two civilians were killed and eight injured in a series of mine and heavy artillery attacks.

According to United Nations sources in the area, a new and disturbing pattern of violence has emerged after the recent breakdown in the ceasefire between Palestinian guerrillas and the Christian militia forces under the command of Major Saad Haddad, which are supported by Israel.

The sources claim that United Nations troops are being deliberately singled out for retaliation by Christian guerrillas after every incident of violence or infiltration.

Figures supplied to *The Times* show that over the past two weeks more than 500 rounds of heavy machine gun, mortar, tank and artillery fire have been aimed at vehicles and buildings manned by men.

## President's son is divorced

Washington, March 5.—Mr Chip Carter, the President's son, was divorced from his wife Carol last Friday, a White House spokesman said last night.

The couple, who have a son, James Earl, had been estranged since November 1978. Mr Chip Carter is working full time for his father's re-election campaign.

Mr Evans, who was 50, worked for an American oil company and lived in New York. Full play was not suspected.—Reuters

## Food firms upset by UN stand on baby feeding

By Brian Young  
Consumer Affairs Correspondent

Big food companies claim that a draft code of practice drawn up by the World Health Organization and the United Nations' Children's Fund (Unicef) could increase infant mortality in the developing world.

The code, which has recently been secretly circulated, appears only with a view to having it adopted at the next meeting of the World Health Assembly in May, deals with the marketing of breast milk substitutes.

If adopted, all sales promotion for breast feeding, bottle feeding, baby foods, probiotic companies from using pictures associating any healthy baby with bottle feeding, and stop manufacturers advertising baby foods even in journals intended for the medical profession.

It would involve the setting up of an office in Geneva to monitor all promotional, educational and advertising material mentioning infant feeding in any way and preparing a report on breast feeding throughout the world once every three years.

The code was drafted after allegations that advertising by international food companies had contributed to Third World malnutrition by encouraging mothers to abandon breast feeding in favour of bottled foods used on powdered cows' milk.

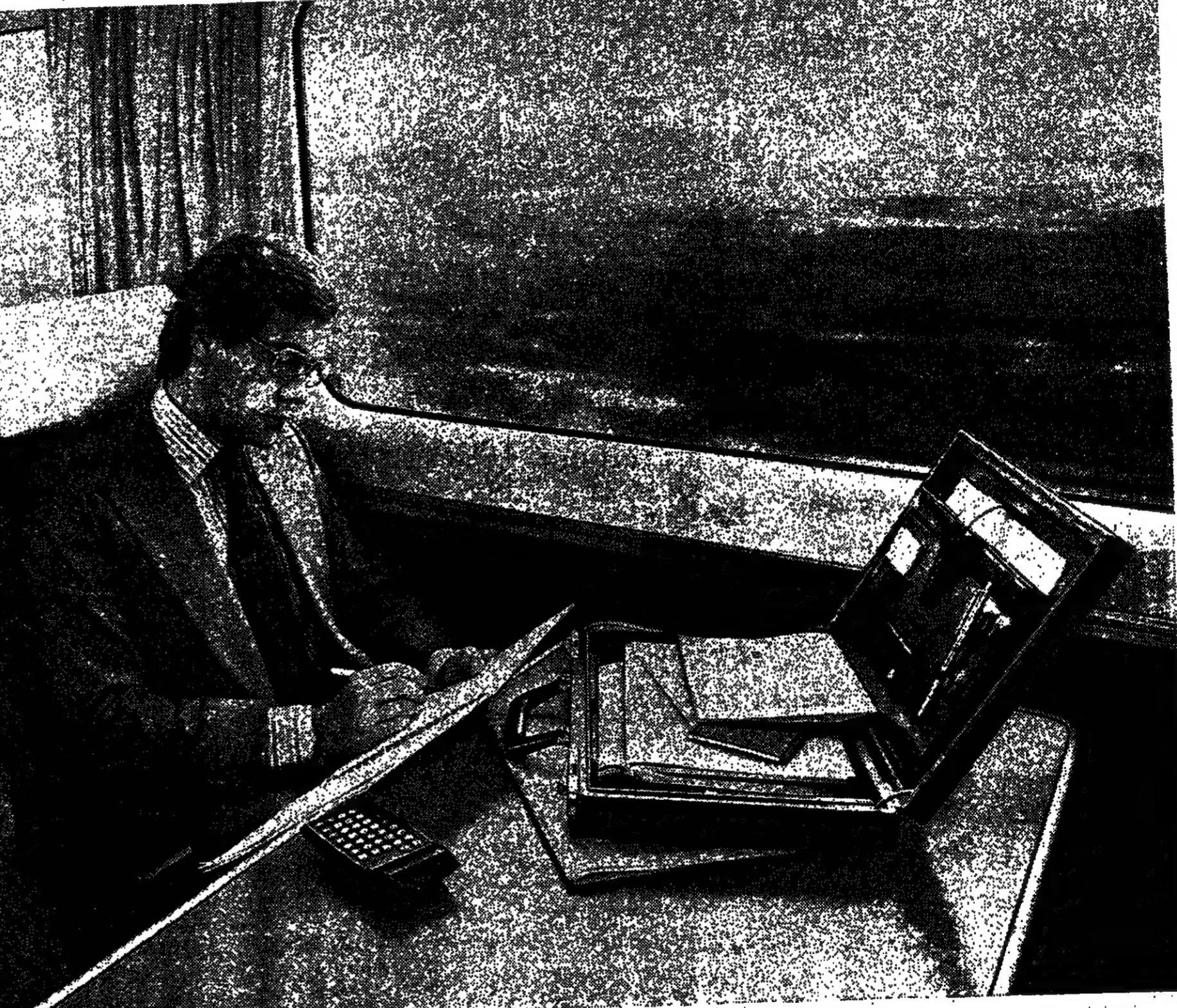
It was feared that in some countries mothers could not afford to feed their babies adequately if it had never been attempted even in a single small country.

## Briton killed

Lebanon, March 5.—A British pilot named Philip Sipek was among three people killed when a helicopter crashed in a mountainous region of south-west Iran on Monday, the official news agency reported.

39 die in crash

Calcutta, March 5.—At least 39 people were killed and 42 injured in a bus accident near Calcutta when a bus crashed into a tree as the driver was trying to overtake a truck.



# This is the way to get straight down to business

Travelling the country is so often what business is all about. And the best way to get straight down to business is Inter-City. Inter-City takes you from city centre to city centre—fast.

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## OVERSEAS

## Doubting MPs assured by British Olympics chairman that politics can be kept out of sport

By John Grocer  
Mrs Margaret Thatcher is reported not to be amused by some of the remarks made at Westminster yesterday by Sir Denis. Follows, the chairman of the British Olympic Association (BOA).

Sir Denis, who was giving evidence to the Commons select committee on foreign affairs, said (in effect) that he and his associates knew best and they still wanted our athletes to compete in Moscow this summer.

The Prime Minister has been pressing British athletes to boycott the Moscow Games because of the Russian intervention in Afghanistan. The ministerial view is that the United States is entitled to greater support in its policy of avoiding competing at Moscow than President Carter has thus far received.

It is understood that Mrs Thatcher and her Cabinet are determined not to make a decision for the BOA by taking the (politically embarrassing) step of issuing a firm ultimatum to the Russians that politics can possibly find fulfilment. Asked by the foreign affairs committee if he felt he had better judgement of the interests of the British people

than Parliament and the Government, he said: "It is likely we have."

If there are any "sports wets" in the Cabinet (which is doubtful) they will have heard from Mrs Thatcher her firm view that in athletics, as in everything else, life in a democracy is difficult. She resents the idea that sportsmen should want the Government to make the decision over Moscow and yet have the benefits of living in a democracy.

The Government is now prepared to sit out the next two or so weeks until a series of meetings are held. First, in Strasbourg from March 20 to 21, there is the conference of European ministers of sport (the Government team will be led by Mr Hector Mouro). Then, on March 22 follows the meeting of the Olympic associations of West European countries. On March 25, the BOA will meet again.

Meanwhile, it is hard to see how Sir Denis and his home, expressed firmly enough yesterday, that politics can possibly find fulfilment. Asked by the foreign affairs committee if he felt he had better judgement of the interests of the British people

Continued from page 1  
than moderate voters predominate as well as down on Cape Cod.

Mr Reagan, who had never seriously anticipated more than a respectable showing in this most liberal of the New England states, retained the hard core conservative vote. From his home in California, where he was celebrating his wedding anniversary, he described the outcome in Massachusetts as a "three-way tie". His position as front runner in the Republican race can only have been enhanced by his strong performance in more conservative Vermont.

The principal loser on the Republican side was Mr Howard Baker, the moderate minority leader of the Senate who could only muster a 5 per cent share of the vote in Massachusetts and 13 per cent in Vermont, while he had managed a more vigorous campaign. Messrs Philip Crane, John Connelly and Bob Dole each won one per cent of the vote here.

Apart from Mr Anderson, Senator Kennedy was the only other presidential hopeful in Massachusetts with his

very serious crisis and everybody, athletes included, must play their part in trying to win the battle over Russia".

The minister felt "desperately sorry for the athletes that the Russians have put them into this position. We are anxious that the athletes should have the opportunity to compete at the top level and our Government, along with that of the United States and others, will provide that opportunity if they wish to have it."

The Government's thinking does not seem to correspond with that in the United States. Mr Robert Kane, president of the United States National Olympic Committee, made it clear in Lake Placid last month, that the Americans had in mind mounting a domestic festival of sport, exclusively for citizens of the United States. To guard against misunderstanding he made the point not once but twice, quite categorically.

He would be going to Europe to meet fellow ministers for sport and they would also be talking with the United States. "I think world opinion is definitely in favour of boycotting Afghanistan, of course, and behaving quite outrageously."

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"I think world opinion is definitely in favour of boycotting the Games because of the attitudes of the Russians at the present time," he said.

Mr Moore said there was no question of sanctions against the BOA in terms of money. The Government would try "persuasion and explanation" and hoped there would be a realization that we are in a

such an event as with any competition Mr Moore had in mind, would have to be authorized by the relevant international federations (for instance, the International Amateur Athletic Federation) and that would provide another formidable obstacle.

## Difficulty in Schmidt US talks

From Patrick Brogan

Washington, March 5

Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, who arrived here last night, is having a series of meetings with American officials, including President Carter and Mr Cyrus Vance, the Secretary of State. He hopes to clear up some of the considerable differences that have developed between the two governments because of America's policy towards the Soviet Union.

The Americans would like to commit his Government to supporting the boycott of the Moscow Olympics and the proposed ban on the export of high technology items to the Soviet Union.

They have shown little appreciation for the European suggestion that Afghanistan should be neutralized, and the Germans are anxious to proceed cautiously in reacting to the invasion of Afghanistan.

In the early days of Mr Carter's term, Herr Schmidt seemed to be unimpressed by Mr Carter's qualifications for the office and relations between them were strained. However they have improved since.

## Minister 'disturbed' over decision by athletes

By John Hennessy

The decision of the British Olympic Association (BOA) on Tuesday, virtually in favour of sending a team to the Olympic Games in Moscow, brought the expected criticism yesterday from the Government. Mr Hector Mouro, the Minister responsible for Sport, said that they would be giving "succour" and help to the Russians".

Speaking on BBC radio he said that he was disturbed that the association should "to all intents and purposes" have come out and said that it would be going to Moscow, because the Russians were "still invading Afghanistan, of course, and behaving quite outrageously."

He would be going to Europe to meet fellow ministers for sport and they would also be talking with the United States. "I think world opinion is definitely in favour of boycotting the Games because of the attitudes of the Russians at the present time," he said.

Mr Moore said there was no question of sanctions against the BOA in terms of money. The Government would try "persuasion and explanation" and hoped there would be a realization that we are in a

## Pakistan rejects proposed American aid package

From Our Correspondent

Islamabad, March 5

Pakistan has informed the United States that the proposed American aid package is not acceptable because it is wrapped up in onerous conditions which would detract from, rather than enhance, Pakistan's security.

Mr Arsh Shahi, President Zulfikar's foreign affairs adviser, said here today: "We could not ignore the fact that the United States sensitivity to Indian reactions appeared to be determining the size and nature of the aid package, denuding it of relevance to our defensive capacity."

He said there was also a suggestion that the acceptance of the aid package, which included \$2m (£820m) economic and \$2m military aid would affect Pakistan's nuclear research programme.

Mr Shani made a long statement on the developments in Afghanistan and the offers of aid by various countries seen at a convention of about 300 representatives of Pakistani local authorities leaders, who are being groomed for General

## Pravda accuses Germans of seeking power

Moscow, March 5—Pravda accused West Germany of today of using the Afghan crisis to dominate Western Europe.

Commenting on the visit to Washington of Herr Schmidt, the Chancellor, the newspaper said Bonn was using a campaign against the Soviet Union, which the United States had encouraged, to further its own ends.

One aim was to "intensify West Germany's dominant position in Western Europe and its standing in Nato", Pravda's Bonn correspondent, Vladimir Mikhailov, said.

He also accused Bonn of duplicity in recent policy. He suggested there was a contradiction between the Chancellor's decision to increase the defence budget and official re-statements of commitment to détente.

He said West Germany was generally dependent on the United States and would be expected to show solidarity with Washington during Herr Schmidt's visit—Reuter.

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## Football club loses tax relief on new stand

Brown (Inspector of Taxes) v Burnley Football and Athletic Co Ltd

Before Mr Justice Vinelot

Judgment delivered March 31

Expenditure incurred by Burnley Football and Athletic Co Ltd on a new spectators' stand to replace an old and damaged one was not treated as "repairs" to the club's premises within the meaning of section 130(d) of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act, 1970, and accordingly was not deductible in computing the amount of its taxable profits.

His Lordship so held in allowing a Crown appeal from a decision of the special commissioners that the expenditure of £209,365 on the new stand to be deducted. An alternative submission by the club that the cost of replacing the stand was expenditure on the provision of a plant for the purposes of trade, qualifying for a capital allowance under section 41 of the Finance Act, 1971, was also rejected.

In 1969 the directors of the club were advised by their architect that the Brunshaw Road stand on its ground at Turf Moor was no longer safe. The stand, built in 1912, had a roof supported at the front by brick pillars and the front stanchions. The roof trusses were becoming distorted, cracks had appeared in the brick wall and the stanchions were badly corroded at the base. In the following years the stand was demolished and a modern concrete stand constructed in almost the same position providing approximately the same seating capacity. In contrast to the old stand the new one incorporated a refreshment room, a directors' suite, an office accommodation, a bar and a social club.

To replace the stand cost the club £209,365. It appealed against an assessment to corporation tax of £100,000 for the period ended March, 1974, claiming that the cost, being an allowable deduction, was a loss which it should be entitled to carry forward. The special commissioners allowed the appeal, reducing the assessment to

nil and declaring loss relief under section 177 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act, 1970, of £21,406. The Crown appealed.

Section 130(d) of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act, 1970, provides that expenditure on "repairs" to the club's premises within the meaning of section 130(d) of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act, 1970, and accordingly was not deductible in computing the amount of its taxable profits.

The question was what the single profit-earning entity had to have been "repaired" by replacement of the premises occupied for the purposes of the trade, profession or vocation beyond the sum actually expended for those purposes.

It must be answered in the light of all the circumstances that it was reasonable to take into account the erection of a new stand which had not been entitled to conclude that the playing field and the surrounding stands and terraces constituted the entirety of the club's premises. The profit-earning entity underpinning comprised also a car park, changing rooms, bath and gymnasium. The erection of a new stand was not a "repair" of any larger entity whether identified as the club for the purpose of its business or as the field and surrounding stands and terraces alone.

Having reached that conclusion his Lordship said that it was not reasonable to decide whether the expenditure was capital employed in improvements of premises occupied for the purposes of the trade within the meaning of section 130(d).

A second and alternative submission by the club that the expenditure on the stand was incurred on the provision of a plant within the meaning of section 41 of the Finance Act, 1971, had been correctly rejected by the commissioners. Their decision that the stand was not plant functioning, whether passively or actively, in the actual processes which constituted the club's trade, should be upheld. The appeal was allowed.

Solicitors: Solicitor of Inland Revenue; John Sulcliffe & Sons.

Court of Appeal

## Time limit for counterclaim

CSI International Co Ltd v Archway Personnel (Middle East) Ltd

Before Lord Justice Roskill, Lord Justice Eversleigh and Mr Justice Walton

Judgment delivered February 29

A counterclaim has to be pleaded before the plaintiff's claim has been satisfied otherwise the action is at an end and there is no action in existence which can be the subject of counterclaim by the defendant.

The Court of Appeal so held in allowing an appeal by the claimants, CSI International Co Ltd, from Sir Douglas Frank, QC, sitting as a deputy judge of the Queen's Bench Division, who allowed an appeal against an order of Master Lubbock staying a counterclaim for a default of defence and counterclaim on the ground that final judgment had been granted to the plaintiffs at a previous hearing.

Sir Douglas allowed the counterclaim of the defendants, Archway Personnel (Middle East) Ltd, to proceed notwithstanding that judgment for the plaintiffs under Order 14 of the Rules of the Supreme Court had been fully satisfied before the counterclaim was served and given leave for the defendants to put in a defence to counterclaim. The Court of Appeal restored the master's order.

Mr L. J. Libbott for the plaintiffs

tiffs: Mr I. E. Jacob for the defendants.

LORD JUSTICE ROSKILL said that the plaintiffs were a company incorporated in Thailand and the defendants an English limited company. The two companies worked together under an agreement to provide manpower for contracting work in the Middle East, particularly in Saudi Arabia.

The defendants were to pay the plaintiff £43,316 by the post-dated cheques for the first £15,000. When the first cheque was presented it was dishonoured and the plaintiffs issued a writ.

By affidavit the defendants disclosed that although there was no defence to the action, the plaintiff had not issued a counterclaim against the plaintiff, Mrs. M. J. Libbott, and asked for a stay of execution.

Master Lubbock gave judgment with interest for the plaintiffs and refused a stay. No request for directions was made with respect to the counterclaim. Four months later the defendants' solicitors entered the defendants' solicitors' office and enclosed a counterclaim by way of service. The plaintiffs' solicitors returned the counterclaim since the action was closed and there was no right to serve it.

After further correspondence the defendants' solicitors acknowledged that the counterclaim was not in order and sent a counterclaim to the plaintiffs' solicitors. The plaintiffs' solicitors did not accept the document and the defendants entered judgment in default against the plaintiffs on the counterclaim. Master Lubbock set aside the default judgment for irregularity and the defendants appealed. Sir Douglas Frank, sitting as a deputy judge of the Queen's Bench Division, allowed the counterclaim since the action was closed and there was no right to serve it.

Where a counterclaim had been raised but not formally pleaded, once the plaintiff's judgment had been satisfied there was no further action by the plaintiff which could be the subject of counterclaim by the defendant. The action was at an end when the judgment was satisfied.

There was a material irregularity in the service of the counterclaim since the defendants had no right or power to serve it. The appeal should be allowed, and Master Lubbock's order restored.

Lord Justice Eversleigh gave a concurring judgment, and Mr Justice Walton agreed.

Solicitors: Baker & McKenzie; Eric Cheek & Co; South Harrow.

## Council is not barred by undertaking

Vansani v Secretary of State for the Environment and Another

Before Sir Douglas Frank, QC, sitting as a Deputy Judge of the Queen's Bench Division

Judgment delivered March 4

Where a council gave an undertaking not to implement compulsory purchase order if the outcome was not satisfactory, the council did not thereby disable themselves from exercising the power of compulsory purchase and, therefore, the Secretary of State was entitled to confirm the order.

His Lordship refused an application by Mr Ranji Ranji Manji Vansani, of Park Road, Hendon, for an order to quash the Secretary of State's decision.

The Housing Act, 1974, by section 36(1) gives a local authority power to declare a "housing action area" within their district if satisfied, having regard to (a) the physical size of the proposed accommodation in the area and (b) social conditions there, that the requirement in subsection (2) is fulfilled. That requirement is that the local authority can reasonably be expected to deal with a possible future need.

The council had an undertaking to the Secretary of State that the power of compulsory purchase would be exercised if the Secretary of State confirmed the order.

It was contended by the applicant that the Secretary of State had no power to make an order in the circumstances, the local authority was unsatisfactory and can most effectively be dealt with within a period of 5 years so as to achieve—(a) the improvement of the physical size of the proposed accommodation in the area as a whole and (b) the well-being of the persons for the benefit being residing in the area, and (c) the proper and effective provision of suitable accommodation by declaring the area a "housing action area".

Mr Desmond Keane and Mr Michael Redden for the applicant; Mr Robert Crawford for the Secretary of State.

His Lordship said that the applicant was the owner of a house within the area declared by Islington Council in January, 1976, to be a housing action area pursuant to section 36 of the Housing Act, 1974.

In January, 1977, the council resolved to acquire compulsorily a number of properties within the housing action area, including the applicant's house, but in March 1978 accepted "that in the event of satisfactory proposals being implemented subsequent to the confirmation of a compulsory purchase order, the council will not proceed to take possession

Solicitors: T. Evans and Co; Wadsworth; Treasury Solicitor.

of" properties, including the applicant's house.

A compulsory purchase order was made in August, and an inquiry was held in April, 1978. It was clear from the inspector's report that the applicant had a deplorable record in maintaining his property and in complying with statutory orders. He had not done what was necessary, but the council did not expect that it would proceed expeditiously.

The inspector found that the compulsory power would not be exercised by the council in respect of his house, but his recommendations for repair and improvement were implemented. He concluded that the council had reasonably sought in seeking compulsory power and record of compliance with statutory purchase order be confirmed by the Secretary of State, who accepted the recommendation.

It was contended by the applicant that the Secretary of State had no power to make an order in the circumstances so as to deal with a possible future need. The council's power to acquire the applicant's house was derived from section 43 of the Act, which provides that it may be exercised "for the purpose of securing all or any of the objectives specified in paragraphs (1) to (4) of section (2)."

His Lordship agreed that the Secretary of State had no power to authorize the acquisition of the land in advance of the council's power to do so. However, the fact that the council might not proceed with the acquisition in the event of that becoming unnecessary did not invalidate the authorization.

The applicant further contended that the council had no power to exercise the compulsory powers of purchase by their undertaking to the Secretary of State could not confirm the order.

His Lordship rejected that contention. He said that the council had given an undertaking given for the protection of the applicant should be used by him as a sword for attacking the Secretary of State's decision.

The application was refused with costs.

Solicitors: T. Evans and Co; Wadsworth; Treasury Solicitor.

## A small, slow blow against sexual discrimination

Women will be able to claim social security for their children and husbands the *Samuel Jones* case. But the commissioners had erred in elevating those observations into a general principle to be applied to the question of whether given work was a replacement of a part of a whole and so a "repair" (so long as it did not go beyond mere replacement) to constitute an extension and improvement.

The question was what the single profit-earning entity had to have been "repaired" by replacement of the premises occupied for the purposes of the trade, profession or vocation beyond the sum actually expended for those purposes.

It must be answered in the light of all the circumstances that it was reasonable to take into account the erection of a new stand which had not been entitled to conclude that the playing field and the surrounding stands and terraces constituted the entirety of the club's premises.

The commissioners had erred in concluding that the stand was not a subsidiary matter arose as to whether the expenditure was nonetheless of a central nature. The commissioners found the stadium to have been the club's profit-earning entity and the new stand to be physically, commercially and functionally an entity in its own right.

Having reached that conclusion his Lordship said that it was not reasonable to decide whether the expenditure was capital employed in improvements of premises occupied for the purposes of the trade within the meaning of section 130(d).

A second and alternative submission by the club that the expenditure on the stand was incurred on the provision of a plant within the meaning of section 41 of the Finance Act, 1971, had been correctly rejected by the commissioners.

Their decision that the stand was not plant functioning, whether passively or actively, in the actual processes which constituted the club's trade, should be upheld.

The test, clearly reflected in the language used by Lord Cooper in

the *Samuel Jones* case, was that the expenditure on the stand was incurred on the provision of a plant within the meaning of section 41 of the Finance Act, 1971, and so was not an "allowable deduction" for the purposes of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act, 1970.

Government to meet the terms of the EEC directive on equal treatment signed in November, 1978. The cheaper changes will be implemented in November, 1983, at a cost of about £8m at current benefit rates, and the remainder in November, 1984, at a cost of £27m.

Understandably, Labour MPs have accused the Government of delaying the last possible moment of their obligation to comply with the directive.

Miss Lynda Chalker, Under Secretary of State for Social Security, who has been carrying the main burden of the Government's case in the committee stage of the Bill, has responded that the changes cannot be afforded at an earlier date.

"We support the principle of equality," Mrs Chalker told the committee. "But we do not consider that the changes command a high enough social priority to justify higher expenditure in earlier years than planned."

Married women are excluded, too, from claiming supplementary benefit even if they provide the only income for the family. Married women losing their jobs who have to resort to supplementary benefit either because their national insurance benefits are too low to support the family, or non-existent because they have been paying reduced contributions, become immediately the "dependants" of their husbands.

Those are some of the rules that will be changed by the Bill to enable the

husbands when claiming unemployment, sickness or maternity benefits. Instead, they will be able to claim for their families, including the husband, if his earnings are less than the amount payable for an adult dependent.

This new condition will be dropped following year, so far as claim for children is concerned. In November, 1983, either spouse will be able to claim dependency benefit for their children irrespective of the earnings of their partner. If both spouses are receiving short-term benefits normally the mother would be entitled to claim for the children.

The FIS rules will be changed to allow either parent to claim, except where both normally work full-time.

The supplementary benefit rules will be altered to allow either spouse, or partner in an unmarried couple, to claim if stringent conditions being set out in regulations are met.

In practice, the Equal Opportunities Commission believes, the regulations will be drawn up in such a way as to debit most married women from being the "breadwinner". It is thus being able to claim the EOC will be denied to married women giving up their jobs to care for a disabled relative.

More important, the Bill does not affect either the housewives' non-contributory invalidity pension, which is available only on blatantly discriminatory terms, or the invalidity care allowance which married women cannot claim at all. The Government argues that the real reason for excluding women from the EOC directive is that there is no reason to exclude them if there is a willingness to end the discrimination both involve.

The discrimination on the first would be ended if the "household duties" test were dropped to allow disabled married women to receive non-contributory invalidity pension on the same terms as all other disabled people. The future of the test has been under consideration by the National Insurance Advisory Committee for more than a year.

The real reason for excluding it is cost. At the moment, 43,000 households receive the pension at a cost of £30m a year. If the "household duties" test were dropped, an estimated 240,000 disabled housewives would qualify, at an extra cost of £170m a year. Similarly, if invalidity care allowance were made available to married women giving up their jobs to care for a disabled relative, the cost would rise by between £23m and £36m a year.

Pat Healy  
Social Services Correspondent

## The old ways are coming back

To buy an Elizabethan manor house and fill it with modern furniture might seem to some people close to sacrilege. But John Makepeace thinks the present public obsession with antiques has gone too far. The Italians, he points out, have shown that the old and the contemporary can be successfully blended.

Mr Makepeace's view, it must be said, is not exactly a dispassionate one, since he designs the furniture himself. His colourful, original and exquisitely made pieces have been displayed in museums in London, Boston, Toronto, Frankfurt and Tokyo, and their prices match their high reputation.

For those concerned about the future of country houses, Parnham House, in Dorset, affords a particularly heartening example of a lovely building being put to a useful purpose. Since moving there in 1976, he has established not only a workshop employing eight craftsmen, but also a woodworking school with 18 students, half a dozen of them from abroad.

Almost all the students, who range in age from school-leavers to people in their mid-thirties, are intent on setting up their own businesses after they complete the course. Because of that, he places considerable emphasis on such things as typewriting, book-keeping, accountancy and draughtsmanship. Craftsmen in the past have been inclined to despise modern business methods, and that has tended to isolate them from the rest of the community," he says.

There was a material irregularity in the service of the counterclaim since the defendants had no right or power to serve it. The appeal should be allowed, and Master Lubbock's order restored.

Lord Justice Eversleigh gave a concurring judgment, and Mr Justice Walton agreed.

Solicitors: Baker & McKenzie; Eric Cheek & Co; South Harrow.

## Rhubarb, rhubarb, rhubarb

Scotch pancakes as fast as my mother could make them on a black iron griddle. The rhubarb and ginger jam-maker was my maternal grandmother who said that spring rhubarb made jam which never set as stiffly as jam made later in the year with full grown stalks.

You could use extra pecan from the chemist to firm it up, but for myself, I am not tempted. A bit runny is how it is supposed to be.

Rhubarb and ginger jam

Makes about 2.3 kilos (15 lb)

1.35 kg (3 lb) tender, young rhubarb

1.35 kg (3 lb) preserving or granulated sugar

3 large lemons

30 g (1 oz) fresh green ginger, chopped or dry root ginger, well-branched

Wash and dry the rhubarb, trim the ends, and chop the stalks into 2.5cm (1 in) lengths. Put the rhubarb and sugar in alternate layers in a bowl, cover, and leave overnight. The sugar will draw the juice from the fruit.

Tip the fruit and sugar into a preserving jar, or a large saucepan. Add the finely grated rind and strained juice of the lemons, and the ginger, which should be loosely tied in muslin.

Bring the mixture slowly to the

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## New Books

## Horizontal poet

W. H. Auden  
By Charles OsborneThe Life of a Poet  
(Eyre Methuen, £7.95)

"Your passion for public criticism of your friends", wrote Auden to Spender from Brooklyn Heights in March, 1941, "has always seemed to me a little odd; it is not that you don't say acute things, you do, but the assumption of the rôle of the bluestockings and invincible is questionable. God knows it is hard enough to be objective about strangers; it is quite impossible with those who are one's own. Personally I will never write a review of a friend's work, nor even review a contemporary poet if I can possibly help it."

A chameleon in carpet slippers, a prolific entertainer dropping ash; a masked performer variously described as a dodo, a rabbit, Wittle and Wil, writing between drawn curtains while so-called children of the sun played in the sun-side; a dazzling and unpredictable star of the lecture-circuit; there already exists, a mere six and a half years after his death, a stock myth of Wystan Hugh Auden and a letter like this, quoted by Charles Osborne in his biography, offers a rare glimpse of his simplicity when pained by persistent attacks in England for having left for America in 1939. To Naomi Mitchison he wrote "I like it here just because it is the Great Void where you have to balance without handholds".

The awkwardness of these un-

published letters punctures the myth a little, but there are too

few of them in the book to puncture it significantly.

It is amusing to notice that Auden played *Katherina in The Taming of the Shrew* in the same year as his exact contemporary, Laurence Olivier (both boys were 15), to be told that he always referred to his first

work as *Henry VI* *Allegro Far Young Lovers* and to read of his

young when the French, for whom he affected a lifelong disdain, translated "a good lay" as "un bon poème".

It is startling to learn that, from 1941 onwards, he started every day of his life with Beethoven and finished it with Seconal, with a generous wash of vodka Martinis in between, and that one of his lovers, for a short time at Oxford, was Dick Crossman.

Such chatty and enjoyable stuff, however, is used chiefly to embellish a portrait that

remains the traditional one because so much of it is openly made up, with references, from the existing secondary sources which established it in the first place: Isherwood's *Lost and Found*, Christopher and His Kind; Graham Greene's anthology, *The Old School*; Seeger's *Stravinsky*; John Lehman's *The Whispering Gallery*, Michael Davidson's *The World, The Flesh, and Myself*, Tom Driberg's *Ruling Passions* and Auden's work itself. These are powerful and familiar voices to which Mr Osborne gives up the centre of his stage more or less uncritically, while seeming himself deliberately to avoid taking a strong, individual point of view.

This difference is puzzling, because of all the varied qualities we might look for in a biography of Auden, and it is effective in the first—Mr Osborne displays at least half a professional literary man, a poet, a critic and, as literature director of the Arts Council and organizer of the Poetry Internationals, a patron of other poets. He writes with commonsense, sympathy and wisdom of Auden's homosexuality and 33-year homo-sexual marriage to the American poet Chester Kallman; like Auden, he knows and loves deeply Austria and the music of Austria; he is an authority on opera, which became (largely under the influence of Kallman, he tells us) such an abiding and creative pleasure in the second half of the poet's life. He enjoys gossip; so did Auden.

Deservingly, he was himself a friend of Auden from the mid-ties to the poet's death in 1973, and the last 10 or 20 years of his book are the best, a moving and frequently vivid account of a great spirit running down: *Fearful in Manzana*, lonely in Oxford, contented only in his converted farmhouse outside Vienna. Exactly as he had predicted, he did die in an hotel, to the annoyance of the management, and he did "budge off quickly" overnight. The funeral sounds appalling, and Osborne's account is memorable. The photographs are many and first-rate.

For the rest of Auden's life, however, Osborne is an inquisitive and unquestioning kind of biographer. He has talked to survivors, colleagues and friends, but rarely pursues a



difficult problem—a spiritual crisis, a serious illness—its source. He writes readably, but his narrative does not proceed, as even the most chaotic lives must do, from one consequence to the next; it is simply set down.

He admits no kind of imaginative or emotional response to Christianity, still less to Anglo-Catholicism, so that Auden's apostasy and return to faith are dismissed as a trivial recourse to discipline and a fondness for "thumping out old hymns whenever he found himself in the same room as a piano. More seriously, Auden's first biographer displays virtually no sense of contemporary history, whose needle pressures should surely inform a life of this above all poets, but are here confined to elementary reminders and statements of fact ("In August 1914 war broke out"), and he is sufficiently insensitive to the Adenauer period of terrorism to advise him to confine Suffolk with Norfolk, Valencia with Barcelona, and to get Auden's Berlin address wrong in his own copy though later transcribing it correctly in the poem, "Prologue at Sixty". Small errors, I suppose, but unsettling the reader's confidence in the writer's worldliness, and grasping at survivors, colleagues and friends, but rarely pursues a

matter entirely, what are aliases for?

As with the life, so with the work: the biographer's difference is matched by the critic's self-effacement. When Osborne suddenly alludes to Auden's "poetic achievement" more than half way through, it comes as quite a shock because, whilst he enumerates every important poem, play, criticism and collection as they appear, he rarely allows himself to comment on them: preferably, preferring instead to quote the opinions of others as expressed at the time.

This is, of course, a common device of literary biographers, and essential for plotting the progress of reputations, but the effect of denying Auden even a tentative judgment in 1980 is that the whole of his vast, and vastly variable, output—from *paid on Both Sides through The Dog Beneath The Skin*, *About the House to Thank you*, *Fog*—passes before us in a kind of haze. Sooner or later some one is going to have to start sorting out Auden's reputation and it is a pity that Mr Osborne, having had the courage to write the life of a friend in the first place, finished up passing the buck.

Michael Ratchiffe

## Mac the Mod

The Last Edwardian at No 10  
By George Hutchinson

(Quartet, £6.50)

When Harold Macmillan as Prime Minister gave a party for political reporters at No 10, no doubt having been persuaded into it by his public relations advisers, Lady Dorothy Macmillan would appear 20 minutes before her husband to play the hostess in the Devonshire style. She spread cake through mixed company as lightly as she would have spread butter on bread.

Once she led me from one reception room into another to turn the angle of a pedestrals bust of the Prime Minister. "Harold", she said, "is so vain that he always turns it for the profile. Every time I come in here I turn it back to full face." Then the host appeared, curiously shy in his own home when it filled up with comparsive strangers and conducting scholarly or mannered monologues to conceal the fact.

Mr Macmillan could be at home to journalists without ever being at home with them. George Hutchinson must be a paragon of the Carlton Club and come from a member of the Carlton Club. He served Mr Macmillan as an aide, and has never lost touch with his guru since he returned to journalism, not least as the contributor of a political weekly column first to *The Times* and then to the *Daily Telegraph*.

Mr Hutchinson subtitled his book "an impression of Harold Macmillan", and makes no claim to the biographical

thoroughness he gave to his work on Edward Heath. We have here, mainly, Harold Macmillan in the years when the author closely observed him, and eventual biographers will find many of the insights coming usefully to hand.

To call Mr Macmillan "the last Edwardian at No 10" is, of course, to stretch a point. As Mr Hutchinson himself writes, he was born a late Victorian, and he can still describe at first hand the Kupferl and splendour of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Yet it is true that "in manner, appearance, sentiment, and culture he reflects the quintessential Edwardian to this day".

The author, who has been in a good position to judge, accepts the Edwardianism as genuine; for others, including me, it has been a brilliantly sustained pose. Scholar in politics, cynical and radical, he is with "Rab" (Lord Butler of Saffron Walden) one of the most modern men in Britain today in spite of his weight of years. I, for one, have never been able to keep up with either of them, although George Hutchinson's impressions help.

Of course, in his time the author, as Conservative publicist, helped to create the public persons of Mr Macmillan. Once at a small luncheon I saw facing the Prime Minister, with John Wyndham (Derek Egerton), his unbroken aide, on my left.

"Who?", asked John, as though Mr Macmillan were dead or out of earshot, with kindling purring about that he is unflappable? He's always flapping. As Winston Churchill might have said, there were times when he had a lot to flap about, but the style always carried the man through.

David Wood

though himself, like all good men, in love with Jane, shows honesty enough that she was in music mediocre, but that music being useful to girls "on the catch" for husbands, she gave it an important place in depicting her characters or developing her plots. Lifelong Janeites eager for any new light upon their heroine will enjoy the author's detailed researches, based on extensive musical scholarship, into Jane's music books and the programmes of concerts in Bath.

## Quick guide

The Innocent Diversion, Music in the life and writings of Jane Austen, by Patrick Piggott (Douglas Cleverdon, £6.90). This well-produced account of music in the life and writings of Jane Austen should greatly please the ever-growing host of her admirers. Mr Piggott,

## Wild West Wales

Search for Beulah Land  
By Gwyn Williams

(Croom Helm, £8.95)

An extraordinary book. In 1790 the Welsh were struggling out of a colonial past. In the century which followed the iron curtain of Methodism was rung down on them. But there were 10 years during which the race went off like soda-pop.

They got politics. They revived the old myth that a Welsh prince had discovered America and Welshmen stumbled up the Mississippi in search of the Lost Brothers. Incredible figures began to walk on parts: Iolo Morganwg, polymath, drunk and forger, who suddenly announced to the world he had discovered the lost literature of Glamorgan (having first sat down and written it); John Evans, hired in the twilight of the Spanish North American Empire to be its last conqueror, walked into the Wilderwood to find the Welsh Indians; Morgan John Rhys, propagandist, man of God, took to the Frontier to found a Welsh national home, fulminating against the two Welsh obsessions, booze and women (on his death two casks of whisky, one full, one empty, were found in his cellar; between them they could have held 250 gallons).

The book has everything: the end of Empires, Revolutionary politics, Indian attacks in the forests, folk-lore, the mystery of old fort that could not have been built by the Indians, and over it all the obsessions of men whom romance and idealism drove to lonely deaths in the New World. There is so much in fact that the scenes shift and characters come and go as Pro-

fessor Williams excitedly whips up the mixture. There is a cast of hundreds, it seems, Russian princes, drunken American frontier generals, bewildered Indian chiefs, Welsh forgers, Welsh revolutionaries, Welsh dreamers. The scenes move from chapels to London pubs to the great untraced forests.

The thing is heady enough anyway, yet into it Professor Williams throws his adjectives. The reader has the impression that the book is ankle-deep in them. Occasionally he looks up, as when Professor Williams says that the town of Newcastle Emlyn petitioned to be moved bodily to the New World. Now if you know anything about small towns in West Wales, they never agree on anything, nor would they have done two hundred years ago.

The pace is such that you overlook one central thing: that for one wild decade a nation shook itself and looked around, and its horizons lurched back. But then the chapels came, and it closed on itself like a fist. This should have been a much longer, sadder book. But there is still a passion to it that you rarely find in academic history, and some of the phrases are beautiful: "... historians stamped nations out of the ground and wove new tricolours out of old legends."

Nevertheless, when a character appears, "Slave trader in the West Indies, merchant, land speculator, explorer, keeper of a negro herem, church warden and bachelor father of four children", disappears in the next paragraph the general reader is left with the feeling of irritation. An extraordinary book.

Byron Rogers

## Love on the march

Lovers on the Nile  
By Richard Hall

(Collins, £7.95)

In its memoir of Sir Samuel Baker, the great Victorian explorer who discovered Lake Albert and the Murchison Falls, the DNB smoothly announced that it was while travelling in Hungary that he "first met Florence, daughter of Herr Finian von Saa, whom he married". Well, my yes and my no: actually, Baker first saw Florence, a golden-haired girl of 17, at a slave auction in Bulgaria, bought her and made her his mistress.

She was nothing loath, and against the odds they were speedily happy. Florence became Baker's constant companion, sharing the dangers of his legendary African explorations. Returning triumphant to England, Baker was knighted, and the slave girl became Lady Baker. Victoria, however, had heard rumours that Florence had been "on intimate terms with her husband", before they were married, and never received her. Baker became a churl of the Prince of Wales; but then came one of the great Victorian scand-

als—his brother, Col Valentine Baker, was accused by a girl "of very prepossessing appearance" of assaulting her in a railway carriage. The Colonel was tried and found guilty—but probably was so; both brothers were, as the Victorians put it, "goers"; Sam was somewhat prurient about the sexual habits of the Africans, and positively enjoyed the "moralities" of the naked girls who daily went bare on the Arbutus.

The scandal settled; Valentine, out of prison, did good work in the Sudan, and Sir Stanley became a west country squire, made a good garden (he thrashed the future King George V for breaking a branch off his favourite tropical tree), and died in Florence's arms in 1893 with the words: "Goodbye, can I leave you?" She died in 1916, a last survivor of the eminent company of Victorian explorers—and not the least admirable. Mr Hall's good book comes up with a wealth of detail from previously unexplored sources, and sharpens our interest in both Baker brothers. But Lady Baker is centre-stage: a true original, spirited and lively and well worth commemorating.

Derek Parker

though himself, like all good men, in love with Jane, shows honesty enough that she was in music mediocre, but that music being useful to girls "on the catch" for husbands, she gave it an important place in depicting her characters or developing her plots. Lifelong Janeites eager for any new light upon their heroine will enjoy the author's detailed researches, based on extensive musical scholarship, into Jane's music books and the programmes of concerts in Bath.

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Ronald Butt

# A healthy challenge for state schools

The other day, Lord Butler of Saffron Walden, quondam Chancellor of the Exchequer, Lord Privy Seal, First Secretary of State and Home Secretary, Deputy Prime Minister, Foreign Secretary, Minister of Education and Master of Trinity (inter alia) descended upon the House of Lords and, speaking with the authority of the producer of the seminal 1944 Education Act, delivered a characteristically fascinating pronouncement on the Government's Education (No 2) Bill.

His speech was lavishly bejewelled with Butlerism, and it also contained one anecdote much too good to be lost in the bound copies of the official report. Lord Butler is, and was in 1944, very keen on school meals and milk. "This was," he said, "a great favourite of mine", and what is more, he informed the peers, Winston Churchill was keen on it too. Lord Butler continued:

"In fact, he (Churchill) said, 'Do pour it down their throats'. Then he waved his usual champagne glass and said to his wife: 'Could they have some of this?' She said: 'Don't be silly, Winston, you are far too general with it already, and you will not be able to afford it.' He said it in his usual inimitable way: 'I wish all corrugated homes could have what I have'."

Alas, times have changed. I do not quite see Mrs Thatcher exhorting Mr Mark Carlisle to pour milk or champagne down the throats of the pupils, or even medium sherry. Still less do I see Mr Thatcher exhorting the Prime Minister not to be silly. And times have moved on in other ways too.

The system of different types of secondary school established

by the 1944 Act has largely disappeared: few grammar schools remain; the status of the direct grant schools has been abolished, and most of the best of them forced to become independent.

The Government's new Bill has many parts, of which one of the most conspicuous provides for economies in school meals and transport. Lord Butler, despite his attachment to meals and milk, reluctantly believed that if economies had to be made, this was the right place to make them. He was right, however, critical of the economies in school transport which have, under the urban Roman Catholic and the parents of rural children.

But the main force of his criticism was in the provision of means-tested assisted places in approved independent schools for the benefit of highly intelligent children of lower paid parents.

Such criticism might seem curious from the architect of the 1944 Act which ushered in the selected secondary system. But Lord Butler insisted that his Act foresaw the comprehensive system, of which he is now an admirer; he wants the state system improved (so do we all) and he feels that the assisted places scheme might impede that improvement by diminishing the ninth forms in comprehensive schools. He thought it would be better to spend the small amount of money available in the first year (it has been halved to only £3m) on rural transport.

With a respect which is on this occasion not a form of words, I suggest that he is wrong. For one thing, criticism of the assisted places scheme by transient and now largely discredited teaching fashions



Lord Butler: still keen on providing children with school meals and milk—but not with assisted places...

wrong. It will actually be cheaper to send a child on full fees to a former direct grant school than to keep him in the state system (in terms of real cost). In any case, it is far from the main point.

The real questions to be asked are these. Why do the parents of so many able children want them to go to independent schools; what are the advantages of these schools to the individual child and to education as a whole?

The benefit to society as a whole has been revealed without ambiguity by the educational history of the last 20 years. While the state sector has frequently been riven by political controversy and destabilized by transient and now largely discredited teaching fashions

that too often subordinated educational theory to social engineering, the independent schools (by which I mean the public and ex-direct grant schools) have kept academic standards and discipline alive. The simple reason was that the independent schools had confidence in what they offered and knew that it was what most of their parents wanted. The state schools had the bright new premises, but too often it was the independents that had the teaching—particularly in mathematics, sciences and languages. (And where would the classics be but for the independent schools?)

If this is so, is there not every reason for keeping the independent sector alive and vigorous, and above all, for pre-

venting what it has to offer from being accessible only to those with long enough purses?

The Labour Party would like if it dared, to abolish the independent schools altogether, precisely because these schools often present so strong and happy a contrast with the state sector, and provide a yardstick both of parental wishes and of achievement by which the state system has to be tested.

This is the very reason why they should be encouraged (for the benefit of all children) by the provision of means-tested assisted places. To Lord Butler, the scheme hardly appears worthwhile, since it will, at the start, affect no more than between 5,000 and 7,000 pupils. But each year the intake will be doubled, and by the mid-eighties, the number of assisted places would be as high as 100,000. What matters, therefore, is the beginning—and let us see how parents respond.

The scheme will enable the most able children to move with their feet by leaving the state system—and to the extent that this will force the comprehensive schools to compete for these children in their teaching, especially in their sixth forms, these state schools will be strengthened, not weakened, by the challenge of the assisted places.

In education, independence is one of the most important of virtues. If we could wave a wand, and render all schools independent of state control (but with the state paying the fees where necessary) we should be well advised to do it.

But the criticism inadvertently put him in the company of those who want to discredit the independent schools by making them the prerogative of the rich. For after all, we are not only dealing with theories here but with, say, 5,000 actual children (to start with) who might be helped now.

If Lord Butler and his family were suddenly stripped of their wealth, and his grandchildren had to take up lodgings in an inner city comprehensive school, of short leases, advantageous sort, and with no means of escape, would he not see things differently?

I told you so from the start

David Steel

It is sometimes difficult for politicians to resist the temptation to say "I told you so". On the subject of Rhodesia I do not propose even to attempt that.

In an article on this very page in 1976, just after Mr Ian Smith declared that "in a thousand years" would he transfer power to the Africans, I concluded that "By his intransigence to moderate demands Mr Smith is driving his population reluctantly to the support of those who believe that the armed struggle is now inevitable."

Four years later, after a great deal of unnecessary bloodshed, and a foolish attempt to create an "internal settlement" the people of Zimbabwe have chosen their new rulers. (It must be said that to have got through the elections without a major upset is a triumph of which Foreign Office ministers and officials can be justly proud.) But what an unnecessary tragic buzzard, political and economic waste these years have been!

After my last visit to Zimbabwe in January, 1979, I was struck by the fact that only a Conservative government could seriously consider the issue.

The Labour Government's efforts were constantly undermined by sundry visiting Tories who kept feeding the intransigence of the Rhodesian Front and urging them to hang on for a change of British government. The supervising transition is a sign of his magnanimity in the face of provocation.

Robert Mugabe is a clever man, and many find him a difficult man to deal with. He is certainly no Liberal. But he is dedicated to his country and his people. They have suffered much in the course of removing to remove.

Mr Mugabe was himself detained without trial for several years during which time his only child died. There is a huge legacy of bitterness in Zimbabwe to be overcome.

His task over the election period was made even more difficult by the death of his army commander, General Tongogara. Nevertheless, he has won an outright majority. It is a pity that proportional representation did not apply to the white seats, for the Europeans are now fully represented by 20 Rhodesian Front MPs.

The man we should have been preparing and expecting to win has won clearly. He could now help to unite his country. If he invites Joshua Nkomo to be the first President of the new Zimbabwe. In an interview with me in Mozambique last January (where I talked to him at length and was impressed by the ability of his colleagues as well as his own) he told me:

"We would like to establish a non-racial society where men count as men—where the colour of a person, his creed or his race is not a consideration for purposes of getting a job. We would like to see a society in which blacks, whites, Indians and the coloured people freely mix. We are not fighting an anti-white war—we are fighting against the present system because it is oppressive for the majority of the people."

It is sad that we did so little over the years to help him. We must do so now.

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Bernard Levin

# Let the heroes rest in peace

It is reported that a team of Japanese climbers are shortly to set off on the ascent of Mount Everest. It is not that they have never heard the news that the thing has been done; apparently they have another purpose altogether apart from reaching the summit. It is to find the bodies of Mallory and Irvine, who died in the attempt during the 1924 expedition. I hope that I shall not be thought to harbour unfriendly feelings towards our oriental cousins, but I have to say that if that is their intention, I hope they run into a herd of Abominable Snowmen half-way up and are devoured, bones and all.

So unkind a thought clearly requires an explanation; here it is.

I have nothing in me of the geographical explorer, the trader where no man's foot has previously trod, the man who strives to attain some remote and impossibly difficult goal (only the phrase is Mallory's own) "because it's there". All the same, I defy even the most prosaic, insular and unimaginative clodpole in the world not to be stirred and haunted by the fate of those two brave men. They were last seen on one of the expedition's lower camps, approximately 8000ft from the summit, and moving upwards. Nine years later, the ice-axe they had taken on the climb was found by another team of climbers, but no other trace of them has ever been discovered.

Nobody now knows, of course, whether they died—in a fall, or because they had collapsed from exhaustion—on the way up or the way down. The experts differ, as experts do; apparently, though, the hour at which Mallory and Irvine were last seen meant that they would not have had time to get to the summit and back to the safety of their highest camp before nightfall, which was certain death in the open. At some point, therefore, they would have reached the point of no return; possibly they were only a short distance from the prize when their watches told them that they must start down immediately if they were to survive.

Mallory was a seasoned

climber, though Irvine was little more than a boy. The senior man would have been the unquestioned captain of the team. Disappointment is the constant lot of the climber, who must turn back when necessity speaks; moreover, Mallory had an office in the 1914-18 war, and knew what discipline meant. They cannot have got there, for it is unthinkable that he would have allowed them to go up on the safety margin for the descent had expired.

And yet dull would he be of soul who does not think the unthinkable when he tries to put himself in the place of the two climbers. Suppose they were only a 100 feet—say, feet apart—when they had to turn back, and were unable to persuade them to do so? Suppose they had to go a little further on the way down, that the joy they would be filled with would carry them soaring into the valley on eagle's wings, that with the prize at their fingers' tips it would be foolish, mad, wrong not to stretch out those fingers and claim it.

So logic, commonsense, discipline, all take a step back, while Mallory and Irvine go on their way to the top and to their inevitable death.

Or perhaps not. Perhaps they had been anything but horrified at the suggestion that his body, instead of being entrusted to the

rested so long, on the way. However it was, they were brave men—and also defy anyone not to think of Captain Oates when he thinks of the two mountaineers—and they died, either in the attempt to achieve a feet of physical courage and endurance that is almost literally beyond both, or after succeeding in that attempt. But the point is that they died; the mountain claimed them to its own, as had claimed men before, and has claimed men since. Whether they now lie entombed in ice, or crushed beneath rock, or covered in the eternal snow of the highest mountain in the world, they could hardly have wished to be buried anywhere other than on the one followed by the two lost heroes, whereas the Japanese are going to repeat their ascent, and in the conditions of cold that never vary at the height they must lie at, their bodies must be perfectly preserved, for since not even the lowest animal life can exist in those conditions, they are truly in a place where man and bird do not corrupt."

But against the second half of that prescription—"where thieves do not break in and steal"—they appear to be less secure. The seekers mean well, no doubt; apart from anything else, it may be possible to dis-

cover, if they find one or both bodies, whether Mallory and Irvine did reach the summit or not and if they did then they will be duty and rightly accorded the posthumous honour they may have been denied for 56 years. And yet even that seems to me to be unnecessary. For if they did achieve victory and perished after the attempt, they do not need our applause to tell them so; they died in Requiescant in pace.

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# An author just hates to be horn-swoggled

work of a manuscript was changed to that." "Every time I used the word *get*, the copy-editor changed it to *receive*. I had to go through the entire manuscript and change it back." "My copy-editor told me to change different from whatever it appeared to *different* than." "A bunch of unlettered school-maids: they illustrate Pope's 'A Little Learning is a dangerous thing'."

The second most common complaint was of poor communication between publisher and author. "I just couldn't get any answers to my letters." "My book was assigned to an editor and I was introduced to her. Then I heard nothing for two months. When I asked about it, I found she had had a nervous breakdown, but the word *product* occurred 17

times. One publisher, neglectful of the precept that an author should get someone else to write his book, but should make his own index, pressed an author to let them make the index in house. The publisher then charged £430 for the job; then put it into the account as an advance, which would be subject to income tax, instead of as an expense.

A large group of complaints was about general inefficiency. Other published complaints were usually made by "someone no longer with us" who included royalty statements smaller than expected (they always are), mistakes in accounting, and explanations of royalties in publishing jargon three pages long in which the word *book* was not used once, while the word *product* occurred 17

times. The learned and diplomatic Ronald Mansbridge observes:

"You will understand that it is

Americans publishers that are the culprits. I think that over

the knowledge that they had been successful, and for all you and I and the members of the Japanese expedition may know, they may have come to their decision that they must lie at the bottom of the bargain. And even if they die railing against fate, any answer is the same: *Requiescant in pace*.

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# LONDON DIARY

## Mr Mason and that vital year

The fiendishly clever revenge plot being hatched by moderates in the National Union of Mineworkers to give Mr Arthur Scargill a bloody nose by running his arch political rival Mr Roy Mason for the union's presidency has, I learn, one slight flaw. Mr Mason, the barrelling Labour MP for Barnsley, ex-Northern Ireland Secretary and scourge of the left, is too old to stand.

Officials at the NUM headquarters in Euston Road, London, yesterday greeted the news of the goings-on with incredulity, before getting on to ask the very question that agonised Mr Michael McGahey, the Communist leader of the Scottish coalfield, less than a year ago: what is his date of birth?

Mr McGahey's candidacy was ruled out of order by the battered Cherubs himself, Mr Joe Gormley, who declared ex cathedra that it was contrary to rule. The NUM rule book states that "no person over 55 years of age shall be able to stand for election" to the union's top

post. According to the NUM copy of *What's On*, and indeed my own, Mr Mason was born on April 18, 1924, and therefore has been ineligible to stand for the best part of a year. I can, however, offer him a small crumb of comfort.

As an NUM-sponsored MP, Mr Mason is part of the miners' parliamentary group, which in the very nature of these things has its own hierarchy of officers. This year Mr Mason is vice-chairman of the group, and by the natural operation of Buggins' Law he will be chairman next year.

That elevated position gives him the right to sit *ex officio* on the NUM national executive, but only for his year of office, mark you. He cannot vote, but he can speak on issues where the sponsored MPs might be called upon to help. He will therefore have a ringside seat at the NUM politicking, but he won't be in the ring.

Dripping Ouch. Disbelief reigns at the King's Head, Islington, one of London's leading fringe theatres, where half a dozen workmen were last spied this week crawling over the pub's theatre's leaky roof. The roof's persistent drips

have been a regular feature of critics' reviews, including this newspaper's, for the past five years.

The landlord is Albed Breweries, whose beer appears to promote leaks in the ceiling as well as nearer the ground. Relations between the brewery and the theatre are a little tattered at present, not least because Albed asked for a 125 per cent rent increase to £8,500 a year despite the rainwater effects, while at the same time donating £19,995 to the Royal Opera House to improve conditions backstage.

Within hours of my telephone call wondering whether charity, or even an asphalt patch, might not begin nearer home, Albed's subcontractors were fixing the roof, and a promised £2,000 in repairs and safety measures were said to be in hand. I can't feel, however, that I can claim any credit. But some may go to The Times theatre critic whose review of the King's Head's latest success, *Cuckoo's Twist*, made ample reference to "dripping ceilings and an atmosphere 'having the intimacy of a steam bath'".

According to Dr Robin Mackenzie, senior lecturer in acoustics at Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh, department walls between households. Nothing strains relations faster than high-decibel anger, carousing, or a badly-played pibroch leaking through the brickwork.

The problem, as ever, is cost. Many old tenements built of dense, sound-deadening stone can swallow the most dreadful din without a decibel penetrating next door. New flats run into trouble when the material in the dividing wall is too lightweight, and there may also be a problem of unfilled frogs, the hollows in the bricks designed

to the entire corner block as soon as cash is available to do so.

Finally, I offer my own theory that it is a lookout tower built by frustrated King's Cross commuters, and I suppose that they set up a man with a powerful telescope to scan the horizon for any sign of the coaches to form the 1820 to Hatfield.

Sir William told me yesterday that he had always reserved the right to leave this part-time but none the less demanding post of sifting through comparative data on public sector pay awards after a year. He pointed out that work on the teachers' claim and the large volume of other demands flowing from last year's winter of discontent will be complete by the time he leaves. Which makes it a good time to go for a man with other commitments.

Nevertheless, the departure of Sir William, known affectionately in his postal days as Telephone Bill, will intensely interest in what the Government intends for the compulsory exercise, given that the very concept seems to have fallen decisively out of fashion.

Alan Hamilton

Speculation on the future of the Clegg Commission on pay comparability, a Callaghan invention,



New Printing House, 100 Newgate Street, London, WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

## MR MUGABE'S MARXISM

Mr Mugabe says he is a Marxist. Mr Julian Amery says that after Mugabe's victory, there has been a hundred miles of the mineral resources of South Africa. Sir Ian Gilmore, on the other hand, says that there is no evidence that Mr Mugabe is under Soviet influence. Mr Ian Smith says he discovered in London that Mr Mugabe is a pragmatist. The Russians, meanwhile, seem only moderately pleased by his victory since they gave their main support to Mr Nkomo.

Behind the labelling game there is a serious question, which is whether Mr Mugabe's victory will in fact turn out to be a victory for Moscow. The answer at this stage is that it is unlikely to do so. Africa has not provided a fertile soil for doctrinaire communism. In the first wave of decolonization the Soviet Union made very little headway. By the end of the 1960s Guinea was almost its only success, and even that turned sour. In the 1970s it made more headway because it was willing to provide arms to those who wanted them. In Angola it was able to exploit a civil war in which South Africa and the United States were on the other side. Its Cuban proxies remain there because the fighting continues. It made gains in Nigeria because of the civil war against Biafra. It was welcomed in Ethiopia because of the dispute with Somalia and the rebellion in Eritrea. It could make itself useful to Mozambique

because of the guerrilla war in Rhodesia; it may lose influence there now that the war is over.

Mr Mugabe is a clever and well-informed man. He knows all this perfectly well, and he knows that the Soviet Union has done relatively little for Africa except provide weapons, military advisers and Cuban soldiers. He must also know that it has little to offer in the way of aid and trade. Its need for raw materials from Africa is limited, and so are the goods it has to sell. It has shown very little interest in helping the poor and the starving. Nor does it offer a particularly encouraging or appropriate model as a political system or a developing economy except to the extent that it provides a theoretical justification for taking power into the hands of one party. The Chinese have shown a more sensitive understanding of African needs than their resources are even more limited.

This does not mean that the Russians will not try to find openings in Zimbabwe. They and their allies will move in with large embassies. They will offer advice and scholarships and technical assistance, and probably arms too. They will find allies among young intellectuals and they will probably be looking for ways of promoting discord between blacks and whites. It seems unlikely, however, that they will gain a determining influence unless things go very wrong indeed.

## IN BREACH OF THE CONVENTION?

The first report of the Home Affairs Select Committee on the new immigration rules is a disappointment. It is to be hoped that future reports of what other select committees will reveal rather more of their views than the conclusion that "we do not think it possible or desirable for us to form any judgment. We leave it to members to form their own conclusions on reading the evidence". There is more to the function of select committees than the simple presentation of what they have been told by witnesses.

Nevertheless, the report does shed light on the narrow question to which the committee was addressing itself: are the proposed rules comparable to the European Convention on Human Rights? If they are, it does not necessarily mean that the government will feel obliged to abandon its plans. It does, however, suggest that it would have to consider seriously whether it wishes to flout the international

obligations which adherence to the Convention entails. The government has not admitted that the rules might be in contravention of the human rights convention, but neither have ministers provided any convincing reasons which might lead to the conclusion that they are not. Nor has anyone else.

The rules particularly under criticism would limit the right of husbands or fiancées to join British women living here unless the women were either born in the United Kingdom or (under a subsequent concession by the Home Secretary) having one parent born here. The evidence given to the select committee leads to the conclusion that the rules would almost certainly be in breach of Article 8 of the Convention, protecting the right to respect for family life, as read with Article 14, which prohibits discrimination on the grounds of sex, race or ethnic origin. The rules might also be in breach of Article 12, conferring on men

and women of marriageable age the right to marry and found a family, as read with Article 14.

The select committee held only two sessions at which evidence was given by witnesses, and it read a few written memoranda. It therefore cannot be said to have investigated the issue before it thoroughly.

The quality of the evidence, however, was strong, not least that of Lord Scarman, and it should be given weight by the government. The pity of it is that even if the government's objective in proposing the new rules—reducing abuse of immigration policy by some men from the Indian sub-continent—was accepted, the numbers affected would be in the region of one or two thousand a year, and this would decline as more and more women of Asian origin were born in this country. Is it really necessary for the British government to show itself to be in deliberate breach of its moral and legal international undertakings for such a puny result?

## WHERE BLACK IS BOUNTIFUL

We are all in it—householders who pay the odd job men in cash, those who use office cleaners, those who use rabb banks. All are participants in the so-called "black economy", that part of the country's economic life which goes unrecorded by official, especially fiscal, statistics.

Just how big and black the black economy is cannot be known for sure, since it is by definition hidden from public and official scrutiny.

A year ago Sir William Pile, then chairman of the Board of Inland Revenue, said it was "not implausible" that income not declared for tax purposes might amount to 7.5 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product, a pronouncement which produced a furor in those who saw it as evidence that years of high taxation and incomes policy, voluntary and involuntary, had driven a significant proportion of the working population into "fiddling" to make ends meet.

**Victims of Everest**  
From Mrs Audrey Salkeid

Sir, It was reported in your pages last week that a British body had been found high on Everest last year by a Chinese climber who was himself subsequently killed. It led naturally enough to speculation whether it may have been either Mallory or Irvine who disappeared in 1924 during a summit attempt somewhere above 8,450 metres.

Dr Michael Ward, currently in Peking, has told by Shih Chan Chu, leader of China's Everest expeditions of 1960 and 1975, how in 1960 they had found a European body just below a North Col (at 6,400m). dressed in "green down clothing". When this was reported at the time, it was considered that it must have been the body of Maurice Wilson, a lone ascender who attempted Everest in 1934, and whose body, tent and diary were found—for the first time—the following year.

Though his remains were pushed into a crevasse, it was considered since the climber had resurfaced at some time during the quarter of a century before the Chinese arrived. The down clothing was a mystery since the climber who first found him were specific about him wearing a muree pullover and grey flannel. However, they wrapped his body in his green tent when they buried it. His sleeping bag was not found, so it is difficult to explain the down the Chinese say they saw. Of course there is an outside possibility that the body could have belonged to Mallory or Irvine who somehow got lower down the mountain than anybody imagined. This is highly unlikely since Professor Odei maintained a long vigil after their disappearance, watching for signs of

ing one's neighbour. Yet that is what it comes down to. It is shifting a liability to pay tax on to others. It may take time to work through the system but the arithmetic of taxation and public expenditure means that a shortfall will have eventually to be made up.

It would be unrealistic to expect the population of this country to become, to a man, paragons of fiscal virtue, and the £2,000m of lost tax which the CSO estimate implies is probably a figure that has to be lived with. It might even be thought that £2,000m is a price worth paying for the social safety valve which the hidden economy may be said to represent, and for the undoubtedly conveniences of service that it promotes. But the conditions which foster the black economy are unhealthy to society. They conduce to corruption. The corruption at first may be petty, popular and even approved, but it can only prepare the way for something a good deal worse.

In matters of personal finance it is easy to deceive oneself by euphemism. Fiddling tax returns does not sound so bad as cheating.

From Thomas More to Laud, from Canning through Disraeli to Churchill, there has always been an instinct in Britain to bridge into Europe, but this has been countered by the right's self-preservation and self-justification of another side to the English character. I see the abandonment of the Rome Scholarships in the light of these historical movements and deplore it. In with the Treaty, out with the Scholarship—what an ironic reversal of the ideals of 1851.

There is another context within which such a decision must be viewed. The fine art, ie, decorative painting, has been the forefront of the speculative market, but never in history been doubted. The realization that a divorce of the fine art mind from the world of design was unthinkable was the cause of the founding of the Society of Arts, the Royal College of Art and the Rome Scholarships itself. I am very much afraid that what we will see in the course of the next three or four years is the deradicalization of fine art. It will lose its position as the cutting edge of the inquiring mind on visual matters in favour of some utilitarian "design" principle bound up with quantifiable, practical results such as would justify money spent. Such a change would never raise the standards of art and design in England: only a true appreciation of the role of fine art and its proper utilization will do that.

Yours sincerely,  
PATRICK REYNHARTS,  
Head of Fine Art,  
Central School of Art and Design,  
Southampton Row, WC1.  
March 4.

## End of Rome scholarship

From Dr Patrick Reynolds

Sir, Professor de Francia's letter (March 4) regarding the winding up of the Rome Scholarships is deeply disturbing. Surely it is ironic that at the very time when these are to be dissolved, the Treaty of Rome should bind Great Britain ever more firmly to Europe: in an oblique way they are connected.

## When contempt law should apply

From Mr Robin Day

Sir, As one who served on the Phillimore Committee on Contempt of Court, may I express concern at the Government's reported proposals for changing the law relating to contempt in criminal cases?

The Attorney-General is reported (*The Times*, March 3), as saying that the Government's forthcoming Bill on Contempt of Court would, in criminal cases, make the law of contempt apply from the moment that a summons or warrant of arrest has been issued, or an arrest has been made. This was considered and rejected by the Phillimore Committee.

What the Government propose would admittedly be clearer than the present English law, under which the starting-point is when criminal proceedings are "imminent". But the Government's proposal would be more restrictive for the press than the present law, and more restrictive still than the Phillimore Committee's recommendation.

After careful consideration as to when contempt should begin to apply in criminal proceedings, the Phillimore Committee concluded as follows:

"The choice lies between an earlier moment, such as the issue of a warrant for the arrest, or possibly the actual arrest, of the wanted man and a later moment such as when the accused is charged or first appears in court. The disadvantage of a later date is that it would allow comparatively unrestricted comment during a police search for the wanted man which might culminate at any moment in an arrest and charge. On the other hand, a warrant for arrest is usually issued in private, and even an actual arrest may not, for good reasons, be immediately announced by the police. In these circumstances the police might be able to comment on the wanted man without knowing where he was at that moment. However, if the wanted man was never found, publication would be restricted, at least in theory, as long as the warrant for his arrest still existed. We have come to the conclusion that the right point in England and Wales is the moment when the suspected man is charged or a summons served; and in Scotland when the person in first publicly charged on petition or otherwise, or at the first calling in court of a summary complaint, as the case may be."

It should be emphasized that no one on the Phillimore Committee was in favour of any change in the law which could lead to trial by press or television. But it was very much concerned that the unique and summary procedure of contempt should be strictly confined to circumstances which involved prejudice to a case before a court, and which could not be appropriately dealt with under some other offence, such as the common law crime of perverting or attempting to pervert the course of justice.

The Press Council and others concerned will no doubt be taking this matter up with the Attorney-General. Why therefore, because we live north of Westford (or Boston) are we to suffer a major cut, thereby adding to the already overburdened Scottish unemployment?

I hope the BBC Central Music Department, with its progressive policies, will advise Mr Treharne to think again. Surely it can have to be made, England could part with one of its Radio Orchestras, leaving the only one in Scotland intact.

Yours faithfully,  
JUNE GORDON,  
Radio 3,  
Aberdeen.

March 4.

From Signor Carlo Maria Giulini and Mr Robert Ponsoby

Yours faithfully,  
ROBIN DAY,  
c/o BBC TV Studios,  
Lime Grove, W12.

## Flowers Report economics

From Mrs Pauline K. Ashley

Sir, The Institute of Laryngology and Otolaryngology is a small but visible postgraduate institute doing important work, particularly in the neglected but expanding field of deafness. The Flowers Report on medical education proposes that it should cease to exist, its work being taken over by one of the new general undergraduate groupings. Some link with an established organization of this kind might be beneficial. But to break this institute into pieces and lose them within a vast untried complex will surely suffice rather than stimulate. Considerable financial savings would be needed to justify such action, and the Flowers Report provides little evidence of these.

The future of undergraduate medical schools should not divert attention from the position of the postgraduate institutes. Unlike the schools, the institutes do not duplicate each other's work. Each is unique and the loss of any one should not be accepted without careful consideration, particularly in the matter of the Flowers Report. Change does not appear to have arisen from a balance of the likely damage to the specialties against the possible financial gain.

Yours faithfully,  
PAULINE K. ASHLEY,  
Chairwoman.

The Institute of Laryngology and Otolaryngology,  
300-322 Gray's Inn Road, WC1.

## This blessed plot

From Mr Alan Farleigh

Sir, Your correspondent (March 3) suggests that "the affliction creases over" and that people would prefer to spend more on food than on time cultivating their interests. Unfortunately they have very little choice in the matter. If domestic food production is declining it is because local authorities fail dismally in their legal obligation to provide allotments.

During the 1970s 52,000 allotments were sold off or developed, while in the same period applicants on waiting lists increased by 1,600 per cent. Over 120,000 people in England and Wales are now waiting for allotments—an indication of declining interest.

Allotment gardening can supplement household budgets to a great extent. The model plot at Witley Gardens yields produce to the value of £130 a year. However, such enterprise can only flourish with the full cooperation of central and local government. The Local Government Bill presently before Parliament would seriously weaken control over this important and neglected local service.

Friends of the Earth are pressuring for the complete withdrawal of these proposals and a strengthening of allotment law so that local authorities will be able to meet the continuing demand for allotments.

Yours faithfully,  
ALAN FARLEIGH,  
Friends of the Earth,  
9 Poland Street, W1.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Cuts in the BBC's music services

From the Controller of Music, BBC

Sir, Sir Anthony Lewis's plan (March 3) made on behalf of the Head of Music Colleges and of their students will naturally command sympathy in the musical profession and among music-lovers. The international prestige of this country in music has indeed never stood higher.

The fact remains that an inadequate licence—£34, when we needed £40—has left us no alternative but to reduce and reorganize our orchestral resources. Our proposals, still to be negotiated with the Musicians' Union, will leave us with six orchestras, three symphonic, three light—which is six orchestras more than the number employed by our increasingly profitable competitors in commercial radio and television, and considerably more than any other broadcasting organization in the world.

The BBC will continue to contribute to the training of orchestral musicians through the National Centre for Orchestral Studies and the Royal Northern College of Music. It is clear, though, that we can no longer alone sustain the engagement on contract of 11 broad-casting orchestras.

"The choice lies between an earlier moment, such as the issue of a warrant for the arrest, or possibly the actual arrest, of the wanted man and a later moment such as when the accused is charged or first appears in court. The disadvantage of a later date is that it would allow comparatively unrestricted comment during a police search for the wanted man which might culminate at any moment in an arrest and charge. On the other hand, a warrant for arrest is usually issued in private, and even an actual arrest may not, for good reasons, be immediately announced by the police. In these circumstances the police might be able to comment on the wanted man without knowing where he was at that moment. However, if the wanted man was never found, publication would be restricted, at least in theory, as long as the warrant for his arrest still existed. We have come to the conclusion that the right point in England and Wales is the moment when the suspected man is charged or a summons served; and in Scotland when the person in first publicly charged on petition or otherwise, or at the first calling in court of a summary complaint, as the case may be."

It should be emphasized that no one on the Phillimore Committee was in favour of any change in the law which could lead to trial by press or television. But it was very much concerned that the unique and summary procedure of contempt should be strictly confined to circumstances which involved prejudice to a case before a court, and which could not be appropriately dealt with under some other offence, such as the common law crime of perverting or attempting to pervert the course of justice.

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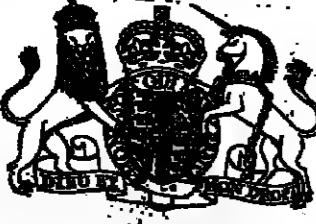
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It should be emphasized that no one on the Phillimore Committee was in favour of any change



## COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE  
March 5: The Queen received the Most Excellent Lord Robert Alexander Kennedy (Prince) and his wife, Lady Roberta, at the Grand Order of Water Rats at the Churchill Home, Grosvenor Square, W1.

The Hon. Edward Davies was in attendance.

The Prince of Wales, President

The Friends of Covent Garden attended a "Lunch and Listen"

at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, this afternoon.

His Royal Highness, Duke of Cornwall, this afternoon visited Dudley Priory in Kennington.

The Hon. Edward Adeane was in attendance.

The Princess Anne, Mrs Mark Phillips, Patron of the Riding for the Disabled Association, this morning visited the National

Silversmiths' Association at Silverton, London, E15.

"Miss Victoria Legge-Bourke was in attendance.

CLARE HOUSE  
March 5: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother this afternoon visited Queen's College, Harley Street, and was present at the School Concert.

Mrs. Patrick Campbell-Preston and Captain Alastair Aird were in attendance.

The Prince of Wales is to attend the enthronement of the Archbishop of Canterbury at Canterbury Cathedral on March 25. He will not now open conference on Jordanian archaeology that day.

Lady Mary Gage Amstruther-Gough-Calthorpe gave birth to a daughter in Winchester on Monday, March 3.

Sir Trevor Dawson very much regrets he was unable to attend the memorial service for Sir Edward Lewis because of absence abroad.

Today's engagements  
Sir Edward attends service at St. George's Aldgate, to commemorate 50th anniversary of death of Thomas Bray, founder of the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge.

Mr. Duke of Edinburgh attends luncheon meeting, National Maritime Museum, 10:15; a special cocktail party at British Industry 1500 Club in aid of 1980 Americas Cup challenge, Mansion House, 6:30.

The Prince of Wales opens district headquarters police station, 10:30; and attends concert in aid of the Children Fund for the Children Royal Festival Hall, 7:30.

Exhibitions: "The Vikings", British Museum, 10:30; "Sculptural arts and crafts", Subseal Gallery, Liverpool, 10:30; "The Illuminated Scroll", by Margaret Somerville, 11:30; "Folk and dance in the Greek religion", by Patrycja, 11:30; "British Museum: four great sculptural reliefs in the back", by Ann Skea, 12:30; "The Poetry of Daubigny", by Morna Shearer, Music Club of London, Holborn Library, 32 Theobalds Road, 7:30.

Quarries: oak by Sir Bertrand Milner, St. Olaves, Hart Street, 1:15.

Concert Prague Symphony Orchestra, Middlesbrough Town Hall, 7:30.

Lunchtime music: Piano recital by Wendy Payne-Payne, St Marylebone, 1:05; Marvyn Collister, piano, Cadogan Room, St. Bartholomew-the-Great, 1:10.

Memorial service: Sir Cecil Beaton, St. Martin-in-the-Fields, noon.

United Kingdom (Sir Arthur Norcott).

Lord Rupert Nevill was in attendance.

The Duke of Edinburgh, as Honorary Life Member of the Royal Association of British Dairy Farmers this afternoon at Buckingham Palace, received the Prince-Philip Award for 1979.

His Royal Highness, as a Companion, was present this evening at a dinner of the Grand Order of Water Rats at the Churchill Home, Grosvenor Square, W1.

Mr. Richard Davies was in attendance.

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J. M. 1980

**T**HE two million citizens of Alberta have always known how to throw a party. Visitors to the Calgary Stampede and Edmonton's Klondike Days will testify to the sore heads and enthusiasm resulting from these events alone, apart from the stamina just to survive.

This year the province has reached a milestone in its history: it is 75 years old, with its birthday falling on September 1. Although the planning began three years ago and the celebrations began on January 1 there is now a momentum to make 1980 a year to remember.

Seventy-five figures largely on everything the province does or produces. The emblem is carried on everything from tee-shirts to pens, from logos to letterheads and personal cards to car stickers.

Mr Bob Dowling, a former Minister of Business Development and Tourism, is commissioner of the Seventy-Fifth Anniversary Commission. A stocky figure with greying hair, he has a tremendous appetite for the task that was pressed on him.

To get public reaction to its intended programme the commission asked Alberta's citizens to submit ideas on how the birthday should be celebrated and they have so far received more than 1,800 proposals.

Mr Dowling said he wished the commission could have provided funding for all the ideas suggested. The commission has decided to use 200 of the proposals made and it believes they reflect the scope and variety of the submissions received.

A budget of \$75m (about £28m) has been set aside with the largest amount of \$41.3m going directly to those living in the province, with a per capita grant of \$20 which will benefit every man, woman and child and will be distributed to every city, town and municipal authority. In addition Indian settlements and special areas within the province will benefit.

Although some of the projects suggested are bigger than others it was felt that they were of the right quality and cost; among them are conferences and seminars, films, books, and a number of sports and recreations. Among the proposals is one to introduce live theatre to Alberta's deaf community.

Included in the budget figures are several government programmes, among which is the proposal to give 24-carat gold medallions to residents over 75 who were born or living in the province before September 1905. The first child born in the province this year will also receive a gold medal. Silver medallions will be presented to those residents reaching 75 and living in Alberta after the province's formation. Each child born this year will get a silver medallion, the design of which is being kept a closely-guarded secret. The medallions will be given on September 1.

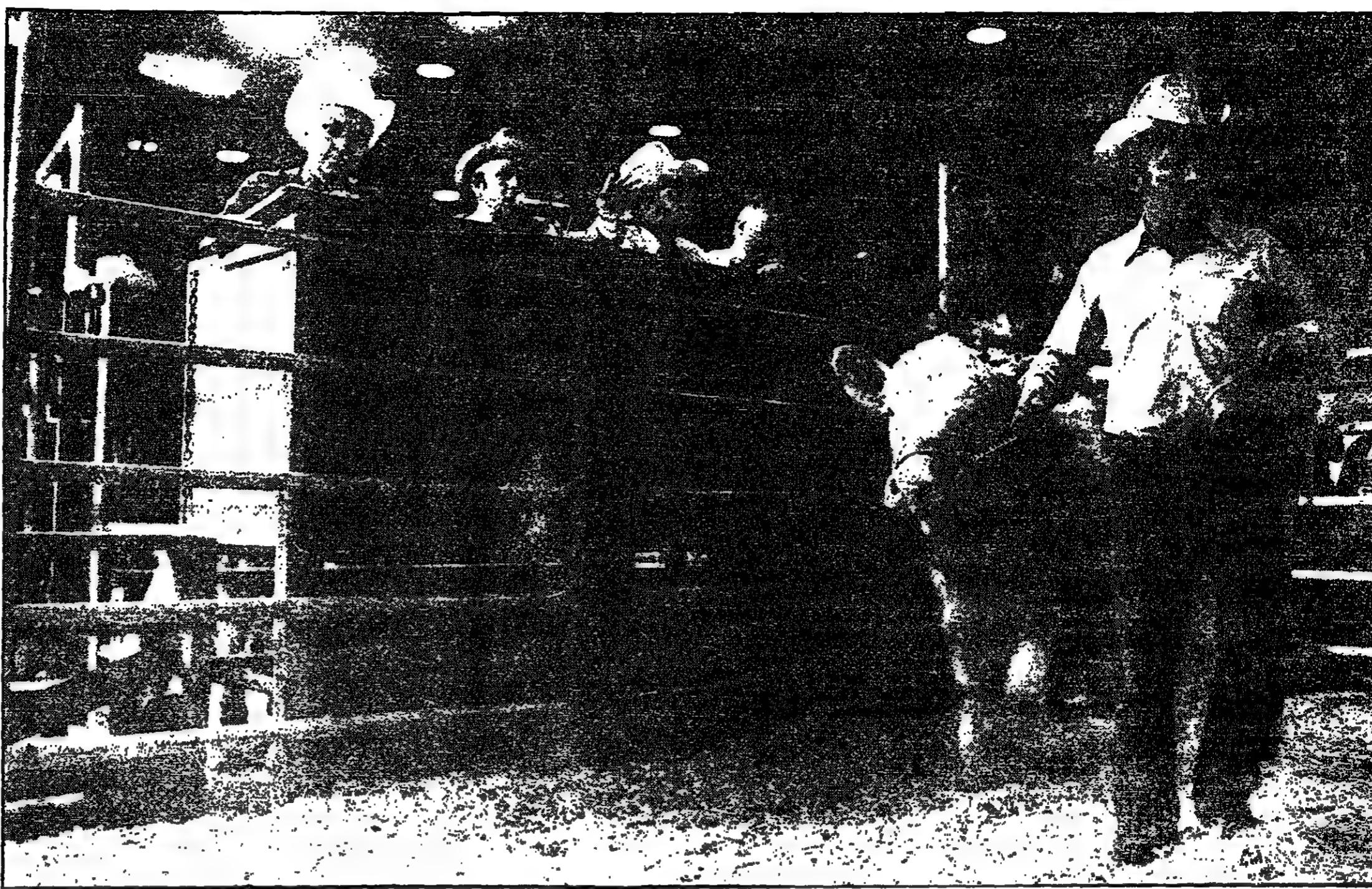
Perhaps the most lasting and ambitious project the Albertans are undertaking is the production of a Canadian encyclopaedia, the first since 1957. It will have 1,700 pages, more than three million words and 300 illustrations, including maps and drawings.

Hundreds of people across Canada will be involved and translation rights will be offered free to a Quebec publisher so that a French edition can appear simultaneously. The work will be printed in Alberta and be published early in 1985. To ensure that all Canadians will have access to the book the province is donating 28,000 copies to every school and library in the country.

Another part of the promotional activity is Homecoming '80, whereby Albertans—abroad or elsewhere in Canada—will be invited home to the celebrations. The first invitation was sent to Sir Peter Gadsden, the present Lord Mayor of London who is an Albertan.

Anthony Jones

# ALBERTA



## Untapped reserves will last for centuries

It is boom time in the Rockies. Alberta, a striping of a province even by the standards of Canadian bistro, threatens to dwarf the economic performance of the rest of the country. Such is the hardened confidence that nothing—ministers and others in the know assure you—is impossible.

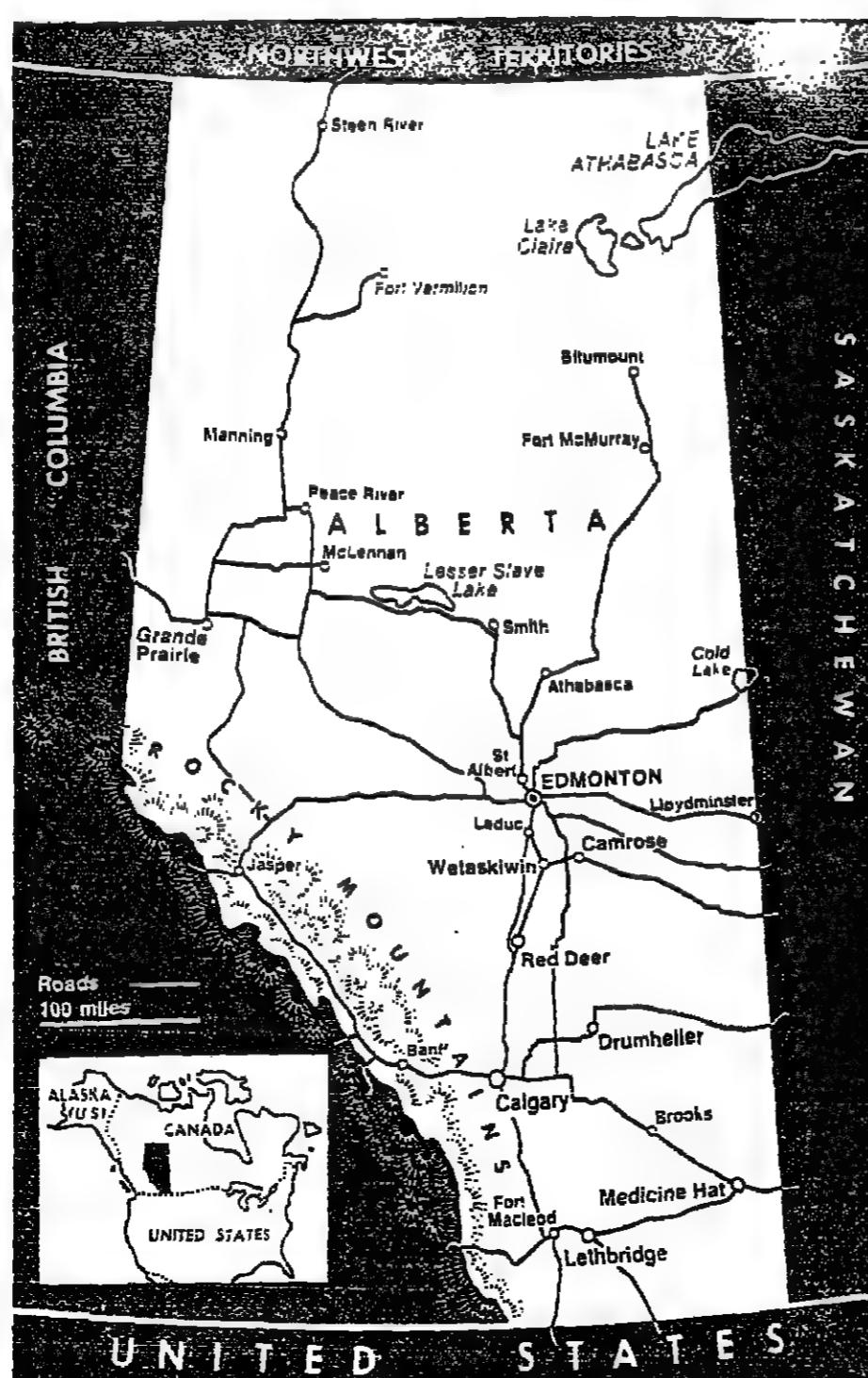
There seems no doubt that prosperity will go on increasing for the foreseeable future. Granted, the oil is finite and the wealth flowing from it is of a temporary nature, but there are still enormous untapped reserves of gas; about 300 years of coal, and hydro and forestry resources that as yet have been scarcely touched. Indeed, Canada's Quarterly Provincial Forecast says that in the 1970s real growth in the province was double that of the rest of the nation and in the 1980s its advance will triple that of the other provinces as a group.

This, then, is a province up to its gunwales in oil and gas royalties, but with problems and pressures coming from all directions. Mr Peter Lougheed, Premier of the Progressive Conservative Provincial Government, appreciates that there has to be some national recycling of the revenues. But he has warned Ottawa, the federal capital, that unless Alberta is given a substantial increase in its oil prices to the rest of Canada, he will go ahead and set them himself.

Such a move would precipitate a constitutional crisis since trade between provinces is a federal concern. But Albertans are becoming a little angry at the lack of help in allowing Alberta oil to be sold at a price only slightly below that prevailing in the United States, which itself is likely to be paying the world price before the end of the year.

The man-in-the-street shows little diplomacy in putting his view: "It is our oil and the rest of Canada should pay the market price for it. They (the federal government of the day) gave us little help in the 1930s; we got hand-outs while the oil triangle of Ottawa, Montreal and Toronto were cosseted and warm." So strong are the feelings that stickers on cars proclaim: "Let those eastern bastards freeze in the dark."

Newfoundland is not included in these strictures—perhaps because the "Newfies" are likely to produce off-shore oil themselves within the next five years and change their status from a "have not" province with 25 per cent unemployment. The powerful and respec-



when it was harshly treated, and national trends are also cent in Newfoundland) and benefiting. An important event, and a turning point, was the discovery of oil at Leduc in 1947. That discovery, combined with a solid agricultural base, has been the foundation from which has sprung the great wealth the province now has. Even so, Alberta is making big efforts to diversify its economy, particularly through an expansion of manufacturing activities.

It is using its oil revenues to create petrochemical and food processing plants; and other aspects of the economy which depend on inter-



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## New industry spreads

For the past 33 years oil expected to cost about \$5,000m. The Canadian Manufacturers Association says identified major Alberta projects in the next 10 years will cost \$38,000m. It notes that the province's gross domestic product, which was \$7,100m in 1971 and \$28,400m in 1978, is expected to reach \$55,000m by 1990, when Alberta should have a population of 2,700,000, up from two million in 1979.

While the population is relatively small, and far from the markets of central Canada and the United States, there has been a significant growth in industry.

This year, for example, the finishing touches will be put to a \$1,500m petrochemical expansion, involving more than 40 different plants and product pipelines to markets in Ontario and the United States mid-west.

Plans are on the drawing boards to double these facilities, which extract ethane from natural gas for the manufacture of styrene and a variety of derivative products. Plans are also well advanced for a major benzene plant and a related aromatic natural gas plant.

When in place, these will give the province the base for a fully-rounded petrochemical industry.

Agriculture was the base on which the province was built. Alberta is the most livestock producer in Canada and one of the three major producers of grain.

The province has a burgeoning forestry industry, with two major pulp mills, a planned newsprint facility and a host of smaller firms producing lumber for sale both domestically and in the United States.

In the next quarter century 15 to 20 new coalmines will be developed in the province and production will increase sixfold to about 80 million tonnes a year.

The province is blessed with a wide variety of coal used both for the production of electricity and the manufacture of steel.

Alberta is shipping thermal and metallurgical coking coal to Japan, Korea and even in some instances to Europe. Some day, Alberta's coal might even be shipped to Newcastle.

Crime rates in Edmonton and Calgary, 180 miles to the south, have both risen sharply as the two cities pushed towards them passed the half million population mark.

Both metropolitan areas in the past two years have issued building permits in excess of \$1,000m a year and that pace is expected to continue this year.

A recent survey by the Toronto-Dominion Bank forecast a 4.6 per cent real increase in the province's economy for 1980—a slight decline from the 5.5 per cent growth of last year and the 6.9 per cent growth of the past decade.

However, the province is on the verge of another wave of expansion, including a third oil sands plant and the first heavy oil recovery plant. These projects are

Energy issues permeate almost every aspect of economic and political thought in this western Canadian province of two million people. The petroleum industry, which is involved in exploration, development and production of oil and natural gas, reported \$12,300m worth of production during 1979. The industry's oil and gas production during 1978 was valued at \$9,200m, compared with \$2,300m for agriculture, which is Alberta's other major industry.

Alberta, the energy province, is the envy of other Canadian provinces in view of low unemployment rates, low personal income taxes, continuing provincial government budget surpluses and the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund, which has accumulated \$6,000m and is increasing by more than \$1,000m a year.

Not surprisingly, Canadian Federal Government policies to keep oil and gas prices below international price levels have encountered bitter opposition from both the Alberta Government, which owns the oil and gas resource, and the oil industry, which operates by buying leases from and paying royalties to the Alberta Government.

The Canadian oil price was increased to \$14.75 a barrel on January 1, 1980, while foreign oil, imported by eastern Canada, costs \$32 a barrel. Refineries forced



to use imported oil receive a federal subsidy, amounting to \$17 a barrel, to reduce their crude costs to the domestic level.

More than 80 per cent of Canada's domestic oil and gas production flows from Alberta wells. The Canadian Petroleum Association reports that Canadian oil production averaged 1,500,000 barrels a day in 1979 while natural gas production averaged 167 million cu metres a day.

The oil discovery at Leduc, now a dormitory community for Edmonton, in 1947 was the first of were receiving \$3 a barrel for their crude when the changed Alberta from a 1970s began and operating sparse populated agricultural facilities at two thirds of their capacity because the market for the fairly expensive Alberta crude was limited. Even with the federal Government's energy pricing policies the selling price of Alberta oil has increased more than fourfold and the field price of natural gas has increased more than 10 times.

The 1970s was the period when the world recognized the importance of energy. Mr Merv Leitch, the Alberta Energy Minister, says Alberta crude oil producers

have proved oil sands production to be a rough, costly proposition. The first oil sands plant, which began production in 1967, only recently started generating profits. The second plant, the 125,000 barrel-a-day Syncrude plant, has to be reduced during construction by the combination of Alberta and Ontario governments. Syncrude has been operating for 18 months, but continues to face severe production problems and consequently is losing money.

Alberta has had very little surplus crude oil production capacity since early 1974. In fact, Alberta oil fields are operating at capacity today and production from these aging fields is on the decline. The Alberta Energy Resources Conservation Board's data suggests that Alberta's crude oil production has declined by 17 per cent in the past six years and similar decreases can be expected in the next six years.

Despite active exploration programmes, only one significant oil discovery has been made during the past 14 years and oil men admit that the prospects of making any sizable new oil discoveries are questionable. Mr Lou Hyndman, Alberta's provincial treasurer, says that declining oil production will eventually force Alberta to dip into its Heritage Savings Trust Fund, which receives half the Government's share of oil and gas royalties.

Natural gas exploration has, however, been extremely successful and sizable new discoveries continue to be reported almost every week. In fact Alberta has tremendous gas reserves available for export after ensuring that its own requirements are met for the next 30 years.

The province's reserves of 1,000,000 million barrels of bitumen or heavy oil hold the promise of even greater production levels in the decades ahead. Most of this resource is too deep for extraction by surface mining, which is the only commercially proved oil sands production technology. Even so, there are 8,000 million barrels—an amount equal to Canada's remaining conventional oil reserves—which can be mined economically.

The past efforts, however,

## Silos in place of the rigs

After Alberta's rich reserves of oil and natural gas are depleted, agriculture will still remain at the heart of the province's economy. Alberta was built around agriculture and its growth will depend on the success of the province's farmers and ranchers, Mr Dallas Schmidt, the Minister for Agriculture, says.

Mr Schmidt, a farmer from Wetaskiwin, south of Edmonton, feels that there will be a growing awareness of agriculture's importance. Mr Schmidt predicts a greater selling job will be conducted by farm organizations and the provincial Government to convince Albertans of this importance.

"I think there is a hell of a future for Alberta agriculture in the 1980s," the Minister for Agriculture says. "I see agriculture as our sole, basic survival industry. It is going to have to be recognized in the 1980s."

Eventually, he predicts, farmers will have access to more advanced delivery systems will have to be developed during the 1980s. Farmers, he predicts, will make greater use of computer technology in years ahead.

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## Rich in a renewable resource—timber

Alberta became widely known during the 1970s for its fossil fuel wealth and its potential for growth has also received considerable international attention.

What is not usually known is that the province, especially the northern half, is also rich in a renewable resource, timber. And, as Alberta enters the 1980s, development of the timber will be an important goal of the provincial Department of Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr Merv Leitch, the minister, says a 3,500,000-acre timber allocation in 1979 to British Columbia Forest Products (BCFP) in the Berland River-Fox Creek area of west-central Alberta will provide the stimulus for forestry growth in the first half of the decade.

This award will eventually result in the construction of two sawmills and a thermomechanical pulp and newsprint mill at Hinton, 290 km west of Edmonton near Jasper National Park, and the Peter Gamble Cellulose mill at Grande Prairie, 480 km north-west of Edmonton.

Mr McDougall says both pulp mills are expected to expand in the 1980s. A vital concern of the department of energy and natural resources is the need to make better use of the province's hardwood, especially poplar.

The province is allowed to cut 500 million ft of poplar wood each year. However, we are using only approximately 1 per cent of that. I think a major thrust during the 1980s will be to encourage popular expansion," Mr McDougall adds.

A.M.

## Black gold gives a lead in natural wealth

Alberta's mineral production during 1979 exceeded \$12,000m, almost half the total Canadian mineral production of \$26,000m.

Alberta's lead in mineral production results largely from the petroleum and natural gas industry, which together generate about 96 per cent of Alberta's mineral wealth.

However, Alberta does have other minerals, and one of the most important is coal. The province's coal reserves already fuel two thirds of Alberta's installed electric generation capacity. Moreover, a rapidly expanding industry is extracting high quality coal from the foothills of the Rocky Mountains to supply markets in the Orient.

Alberta does not have any metallic mineral production, although non-commercial deposits have been found in the foothills. There are no reserves of low-grade iron ore in the Clear Hills region of north-western Alberta, but the efforts of private and government organizations have not yet developed a commercial extraction process.

Uranium, which has triggered an economic boom in neighbouring Saskatchewan, has been found only in small quantities in the Canadian Shield and Athabasca

regions of north-eastern Alberta. The Alberta Government is revising legislation in expectation of a discovery.

Metallic minerals and uranium in neighbouring Saskatchewan have great economic importance to Alberta since prospectors made fort Edmonton boom as they headed to the Klondike gold rush in the Yukon in 1898. Alberta, particularly Edmonton, is the transportation and supply centre for the Yukon, Northwest Territories and northern Saskatchewan. Alberta's Conservative Government, although a self-proclaimed proponent of private enterprise, used some of its oil and gas revenue to buy the Western Airlines, which serves north-western Canada, as a means of ensuring Alberta's strategic economic ties with the north.

Canada is a leading international exporter of sulphur and most of this production is extracted from Alberta's natural gas. Raw gas parts, mainly natural gas, were produced from deep wells drilled in the Rocky Mountain foothills, contains high concentrations of sulphur in the form of deadly, and highly corrosive, hydrogen sulphide gas.

Alberta's coal production increased in the late 1950s to fuel thermal electric generation, and, in the late 1960s, the first metallurgical coal mines were opened to ship to steel mills in Japan and later Korea.

More coal will also be sold to export markets. Union Oil Company of Canada is seeking government approval to open a \$100m mine, capable of producing three million tonnes of thermal coal annually.

T.C.

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# Argentina

# Canada's growing free-enterprise province

## Strong, Expanding Economy

Alberta has the highest per capita Gross Domestic Product for any province in Canada — \$14,407 in 1978. All indicators show that Alberta will not only continue to hold this strong position in the years ahead, but that its leadership will increase.

## Good Investment Climate

Alberta has enjoyed remarkably good labour relations for decades. Couple that with the province's traditionally-stable political and social climate, and it's easy to see why so many new commercial and industrial developments are taking place in Alberta. Proof of investor confidence is the \$60-70 billion investment intentions estimated for 1980-89.

## Energy Rich

One of the most energy-abundant areas in the world, Alberta possesses tremendous reserves of conventional oil, natural gas, coal, and hydroelectric power. The province also contains the Alberta Oil Sands, estimated to hold ultimately-recoverable reserves of 200-300 billion bbls. of synthetic crude (32-43 billion cubic metres).

## Diversified Economic Base

**base** Manufacturing, agriculture, and petrochemicals are three areas displaying outstanding growth and which are attracting numerous support industries to the province.

For example, two projects totalling \$10 billion are now underway to extract oil from Alberta's oil sands and heavy oil deposits. A \$10 billion pipeline to carry natural gas from Alaska to the American mid-west, is expected to begin before 1983. Developments such as these are attracting, and will continue to bring additional new industries into the province.

## Joint Ventures

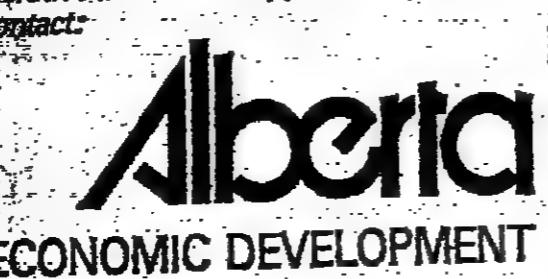
## Wecomed

There are many large developments underway in Alberta and many more planned, requiring huge amounts of capital. To help these developments, the Government of Alberta encourages joint ventures and licensing arrangements between non-Canadian investors and Alberta and Canadian partners. Foreign investment is particularly welcomed for food processing, petrochemical, manufacturing, steel, mineral and forest product developments.

## Low Tax Rate

The overall taxation rate in Alberta is the lowest in Canada. The province has no inheritance tax, no sales tax, and no gasoline tax. The corporate tax rate is the lowest in Canada. And the personal income tax rate is the lowest in the country.

To learn more about the lucrative investment opportunities offered by Alberta, please contact:



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Telex: 51-23461  
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12th Floor, 10900 Jasper Avenue  
EDMONTON, ALBERTA T5J 3M8 CANADA  
Phone: 446-427-2297  
Telex: 857-42185

The province's new-found wealth is proving a mixed blessing. Charles Douglas-Home, Foreign Editor, looks at the boom and Peter Brewster considers the effect on trade.

## Klondike spectre haunts the Treasury

Are there limits to the expansion of Alberta's economic power? It is tempting to study Alberta—its wealth, growth, prospects—as though the rest of the Canadian economy does not exist round it. In fact, what we are seeing is not an economy in the true sense—a political economy covering an area sufficiently autonomous to determine its future in relation to other political economies and to the world economy at large—but a sector of the Canadian economy which is endowed with a wide variety of natural advantages and provincial prerogatives.

These prerogatives enable the Alberta Government to exploit its indigenous mineral wealth, and pursue tax and development policies which make the province distinctive from many areas in the rest of Canada.

Distance helps; so does population, with room to expand without spoiling the environment; so does the provincial tradition of the prairies. For all these reasons we find a distinctive, if not quite self-contained, element of the Canadian economy.

In the past 10 years, Alberta's income from its own national, "non-renewable" resources (oil and gas) has risen from \$218m to \$3,500m. If there is no change in the current tax-sharing arrangements with the federal Government, this figure will total \$50,000m in the next five years, as against a mere \$3,000m which will be Ottawa's share of the spoils.

There is obviously a danger that the rest of Canada will feel it suffers from this distortion in the sharing out of oil royalties and that, as the treasurer of Ontario has said: "Petro dollars, not constitutional lawyers, are rewriting our federal system." But the Albertans vigorously defend their right to their riches.

The key to Alberta's response to this wealth can be found in the province's history. Generations of Albertans have suffered

from a built-in distortion of far below the surface. The might be more pertinent to statistics show why?

The province's growth for the past five years has been the nearly double that for the general account each year—country as a whole (3 per cent to 19 per cent). This, without detracting income a head is 10% per cent of the national average, unemployment fund which attracts most comment outside the province.

In Canada as a whole Alberta's economic power is represented symbolically by the heritage fund which will soon grow to a point where it exceeds the entire federal budget deficit of \$14,000m.

Alberta will be able to buy influence throughout Canada by funding projects with heritage dollars, and that may go some way towards reducing the institutional jealousies of Alberta's wealth which surface from time to time within the Canadian federal structure.

However, within Alberta itself, the existence of all this money for investment does create problems which cannot be absorbed simply by prudent economic management. Alberta is in the same sort of situation as the winner of a fortune pool windfall. The question is how the new funds can be grafted on to the existing lifestyle without disturbing that style to the point where it becomes either unrecognizable or intolerable.

Albertans are naturally in a hurry to restructure their economy with the aid of this new wealth. Nevertheless, this is a process which will take 20 or 30 years before Alberta even has the economic depth of, say, the province of Quebec.

In the political climate of Canada it will be hard for Alberta's economic managers to sustain those policies geared to a gradual restructuring over a 20-year period when the rest of Canada feels it could profit so quickly from the surplus funds which Albertans are husbanding with caution. That may be the reason why Albertans seek to remind their neighbours constantly that the oil may not last very long. They have good reason to remember the parable of the wise virgins.

Some measure of the difficulty in meeting that demand can be seen from the housing sector alone. Alberta last year had 20 per cent of all Canada's housing starts with only 8 per cent of the population—yet house prices continue to rise on a prohibitive scale.

Indeed, though the Alberta financial authorities try very hard to stabilize Alberta so that it does not become a pocket of higher inflation than the rest of Canada, the atmosphere of the Klondike is never very

Research on oil and gas to save exports

Alberta wants to develop a balanced economy and lessen its dependence on the export of oil, gas and agricultural products.

The responsibility for promotional efforts in this area falls on the shoulders of Mr Horst Schmid, Minister of State for Economic Development-International Trade.

In 1978, Mr Schmid says, Alberta exports were worth about \$5,000m, comprised of \$1,800m worth of natural gas, \$1,200m of oil and \$1,500m in agricultural products. Alberta's most important market was the United States, taking 88.7 per cent of these goods, with Japan a distant second at 5.2 per cent of the total.

Mr Schmid, a super-salesman, feels that the best opportunity for the province to develop international markets is by selling the things its people know best—technical skill in the petroleum and aquaculture industries.

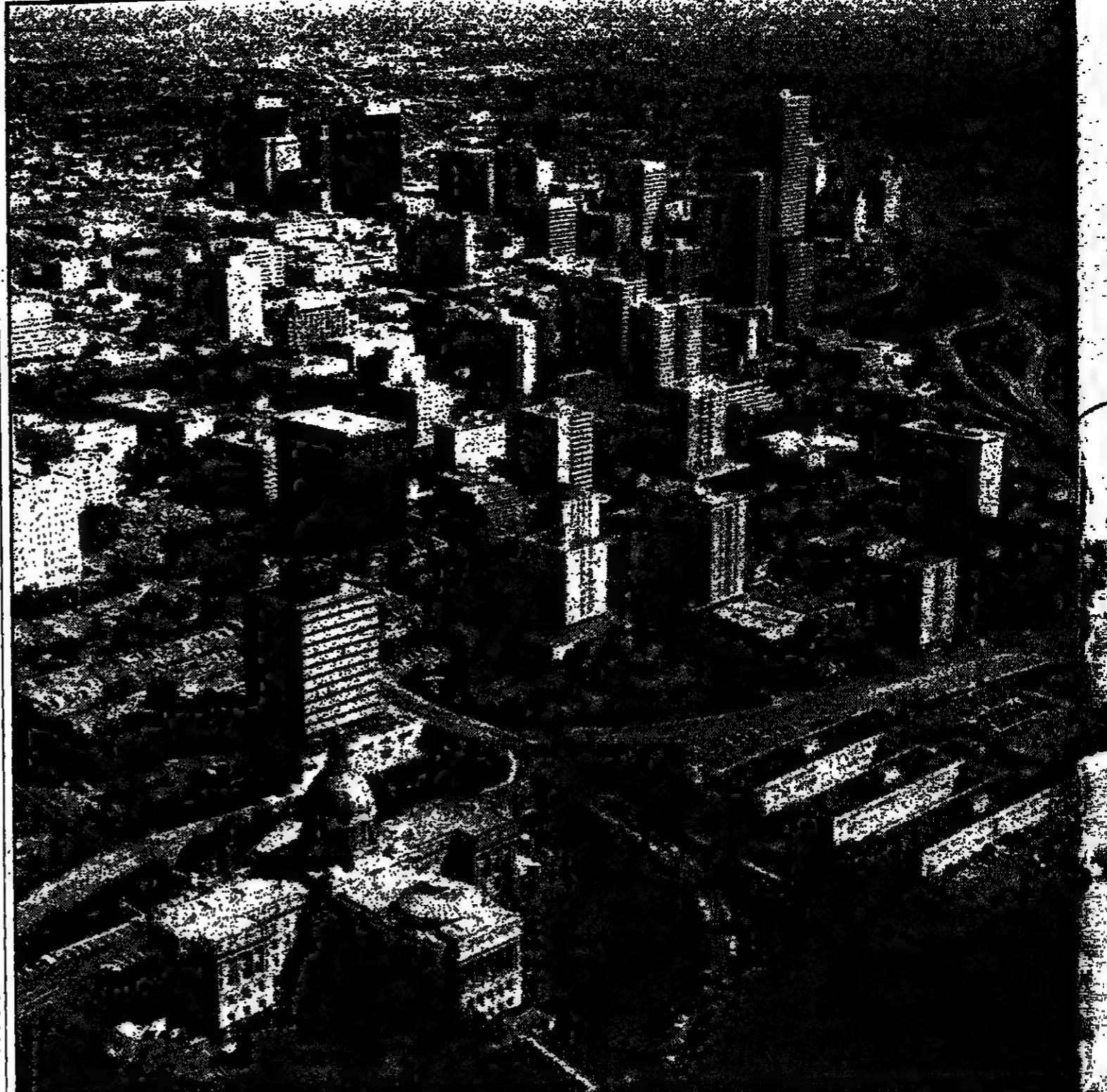
The minister recently returned from trips to the Middle East and Europe and at the end of February was off to the Offshore South-east Asia Oil Show in Singapore. He is enthusiastic about the prospect for sales in Mexico and elsewhere. Also, that Alberta's but competent manufacturers can sell their specialized skills. The minister is also expecting to develop joint-venture agreements with foreign firms and Alberta companies.

In Britain, he says, there is a great deal of skill and interest in oil refining. There have been discussions about joint developments of Alberta coal and plans made to sell some of it to Sweden.

Another area of joint operation is in research. This summer, he says, a group from the Alberta Research Council will be visiting Britain to discuss various research topics.

Mr Schmid said cooperation between British firms and Alberta is another possibility. The British, he said, have considerable experience in the area, which could be of value to Alberta firms hoping to break into a new market.

Because Alberta's conventional oil and gas has been found in fairly small geological formations at various depths, the province has developed highly complex geological and seismic equipment and techniques.



A bird's eye view of Edmonton, capital of Alberta, a fast-growing city with a population of more than 500,000.

## Yesterday's financial bogymen are today's heroes

In Albertan folklore the international banker has always been the same up to now such physical measure of obliquity as all others seem to be necessary. It is not as though Alberta is the eastern and central establishment, whose policies and conspiracies were thought to lie in the geography of the province than in the nature of the oil business. Where there is oil exploration and extraction on such a scale an enormous amount of secondary business will also occur in the vicinity, all requiring financial help, coordination and advice.

The market follows the trend becomes more noticeable. The market follows the reach \$30,000m within five years, is entirely managed by the Alberta Treasury, both in its capital project investment and its financial management for those funds which are not being sunk management and swelled reserves warranted a to into development projects with the last Alberta.

However, Alberta officials like to point out that the growth in the province's money market is not only caused by the release of funds from the oil royalties. Unlike some of his fellow provincial or federal leaders, the Premier is as keen to attract incoming investment as he is to invest Alberta's oil funds on development inside and outside the province. "In this province we have a different point of view to Saskatchewan," he says. "I think foreign investment in its resources and related resource area can be a very good thing. Let's not get so nervous about it... We welcome foreign investors to come here and bring their risk dollars—we don't need their debt dollars."

Nevertheless, it is the massive increase in Alberta's own liquid financial reserves, mostly deposited in the Heritage Fund, which provides a major source of power in the financial sector. The

### Untapped reserves will last for centuries

continued from page 19

started the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund, which stands at \$5,000m—drop in the ocean given Canada's national debt. It would keep the federal Government in funds for about three weeks", an official said. It would probably pay off the debts incurred by Montreal to host the Olympic Games in 1976, with some thing to spare.

The AHSTF is probably the only fund of its nature in the Western world. The revenue consists of one third of the oil revenue—a non-renewable resource—generalized by Alberta: the other two thirds of that revenue, the rest of the provinces, the rest of Canada benefits from the fund, as it lends money to less wealthy provinces and to previously wealthy parts of the federation now struggling in a world where inflation rages.

Albertans are not satisfied or grasping; just acutely aware of what can happen in a depression such as they suffered in the 1930s. In the big fast-growing cities of Edmonton and Calgary, the wealth has brought

**Ask the right people.**

**CALGARY MARKET FACTS**

## Energy

A subject of vital importance to the future of this country. Last year alone the U.K. spent £17 billion on Energy. The Times Special Report to be published on March 25th, will look at Britain's vital reserves and the government's policies towards them. It will investigate Energy management; environmentalist views; depletion control of North Sea oil reserves; the future for coal; gas-pricing policy; nuclear power; solar energy, wind power and wave and sea barrages; electricity; synthetic fuels; pollution control and heat and power systems. The Times Special Report on Energy will provide an ideal opportunity for corporate or product advertising.

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## Stock Exchange Prices

## Technical rally

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Feb 25. Dealings End, March 7. \$ Contango Day, March 10. Settlement Day, March 17

Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

LET THE GIN BE  
HIGH & DRY!

Really Dry Gin

1979/80 High Low Stock	Price Change Yield Yield	Int. Gross only Red Div Vid	1979/80 High Low Company	Price Change pence % P/E																
<b>BRITISH FUNDS</b>																				
<b>COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL</b>																				
<b>A - B</b>																				
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# THE TIMES

## BUSINESS NEWS

### State subsidies paying nearly 40,000 wages in shipbuilding

By John Hurley

State subsidies are paying almost all the wages of the 40,000 workers in British Shipbuilders' merchant shipbuilding, engineering and repair yards.

After making allowances for cash limits, intervention fund payments and profits made on warship orders, subsidies probably amount to £4,000 a head. The average wage is less than £5,000.

Sir Peter Carey, permanent secretary at the Department of Industry, giving these figures yesterday to a Commons public accounts committee, said cuts in the merchant yard work force beyond the 20,000 level recently envisaged would be needed if productivity was to be improved.

A more just discipline was needed in management and work force if BS was to compete more effectively in world markets, he added.

Shipbuilding was a victim of its own bad management in the past. At a time when the industry had had a large share of the world market, management had failed to invest in new facilities and handle business in an effective and efficient manner. There had been a "lack of sharpness in obtaining markets".

These factors had prompted a poor response on the part of the work force. Demands for pay increases had risen and productivity had fallen below that obtained in overseas yards. In some yards, only five hours of the set eight hour day was actually being worked, he said.

Sir Peter blamed this partly on the fear of workers that they may be working themselves out of a job.

### Yard jobs protected by £20m defence order

By Peter Hill  
Industrial Editor

Orders for two new offshore patrol vessels were announced by the Government yesterday to preserve employment at the Aberdeen shipyard of Hall, Russell, part of British Shipbuilders.

Announcement of the orders brings to an end years of controversy over the replacement of the existing and aging fleet of one class vessel used for patrolling Britain's 200-mile territorial limit. The new ships, designated the OPV Mark 2, have been designed by planners at BS in conjunction with the Royal Navy Ships Department. They are expected to cost at least £10m each.

Over the past few months a bitter struggle has taken place within Whitemill over the decision, in particular, of a possible alternative, the Osprey, which its designers claim could fulfil the role envisaged for the OPV Mark 2 at a cost of about £5m a ship.

### Hint of aid package boosts Swiss franc

By Our Economics Staff

Market rumours that the Swiss are about to unveil a package of measures to aid the franc pushed up the currency in quiet foreign exchange markets yesterday. The franc closed at 1.70825 to the dollar, up from 1.71575 on Tuesday.

Sterling also picked up as the dollar was a little weaker yesterday. Dealers reported some profit-taking after the rush into the United States currency on Monday and Tuesday this week.

Currency markets have been dominated by investor movements for six last few days. The dollar has been in great demand after the record rises in American interest rates and many dealers expect them to climb still further and the dollar to renew its rise. They said that the central banks behind some of the traditional

curiosities, notably the yen, Swiss franc and German mark, were again in the market yesterday to hold up their rates against the dollar.

Sterling closed 45 points higher at \$2.2415 to the dollar, and recovered sharply on its trade-weighted index. On this measure it rose by 0.6 points to finish at 72.5 per cent of its end 1971 value.

The Swiss were also believed to be planning a further rise in interest rates. Bank and Lombard rates went up one per cent just last week and changes to encourage foreign holdings of Swiss francs may also be made.

Figures published in New York yesterday showed the United States authorities had sold \$1,300m in Deutsche marks and Swiss francs between November and January. Since then the pattern of demand for

sterling has reversed and the dollar is now being sold by central banks.

The latest figures for dollar support show a marked decline from the previous quarter when the United States sold \$4,200m of marks and francs.

By the end of January, the Federal Reserve Bank had repaid all its Swiss franc debt and reduced its debt to the German central bank to \$2,600m according to yesterday's report.

It also confirmed that the United States stood ready to help the yen if it declined "excessively". Mr Harno Mayekawa, the governor of the Bank of Japan, said yesterday that the coordinated intervention to defend the yen after last Sunday's new measures to help the currency had proved a success, and that no further measures were imminent.

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The receiver said that Mr Gilmore's son, Robin, had said later that the company began to buy meat forward but suffered when prices fell.

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## \$2m refund agreed over repossessed vehicles

General Motors Acceptance Corp., a subsidiary of General Motors, has agreed to refund \$2m (£897,000) to consumers involved in repossession cases, the federal Trade Commission has announced in Washington.

The settlement concerns repossessions of cars and trucks since 1974 by GMAC, the commission said in a statement.

"The agreement settles FTC charges that in many instances GMAC conducted 'sham' sales that deprived customers of surpluses to which they were entitled from the sale of repossessed vehicles," it added.

### Oil tax protest

Norway's federation of industries has complained to the government that plans to tighten taxation on offshore oil companies could deter investment and affect the nation's industry in general.

### Move on TV curbs

Japan will seek an end to its voluntary restrictions on colour television exports to the United States, the electronic industries association said in Tokyo. A public hearing on the issue is to be held in Washington by the United States International Trade Commission.

### EEC output rises

The EEC's December industrial production index increased by 1.8 per cent in a month and 4 per cent in a year to 121 (1975 equal 100). It was the strongest increase since February 1979.

### Steel production up

West German crude steel production rose to 3.81 million tonnes in February, 4.3 per cent from January's level. Production in the first two months of 1980 was 7.46 million tonnes, an 11.5 per cent increase on the figure a year earlier.

### Smaller trade surplus

Canada had a seasonally adjusted merchandise trade surplus of Can \$271m in January, compared with Can \$688m in December. Exports totalled Can \$3,960m in January, down by 0.5 per cent, and imports were Can \$5,690m, an increase of 6.2 per cent.

### Recession hits jobs

South Korea's unemployment rate to 3.8 per cent in 1979 from 3.2 per cent in 1978, reflecting a recession in the national economy, the government announced. The number of jobs totalled 542,000 in 1979, a rise of 100,000.

### Machinery orders

Industrial machinery orders in Japan in January totalled about 373,000m yen, a fall of 6.9 per cent from December's level but up 18.1 per cent from the figure a year earlier.

### Higher gas imports

West Germany imported 43,800 million cubic metres of natural gas last year from the Netherlands, Norway and the Soviet Union, an increase of 13.5 per cent on the 1978 figure. Domestic natural gas production covered only 35 per cent of demand against 39 per cent in 1978.

### Registrations soar

Japanese motor vehicle registrations increased by 48.7 per cent in February to 333,800, against a total in December of 225,000. The figure was 4.5 per cent higher than in February last year.

Improving trade climate may continue despite jailing of Briton

## Business opportunities grow in Iraq after expulsions set back in 1978

in going ahead with plans to send a three-man team to Baghdad last week.

The company has won a consultancy contract involving demolition of a hospital in Baghdad and its replacement with a new one of 1,000 beds. A sister company, Northgate Engineering Consultants, has a contract for another hospital, and Mr Michael Grice, managing director of Architects Co-partnership, is hoping to negotiate fresh business while on the current visit.

"There is certainly a tremendous potential in Iraq for United Kingdom contractors, equipment suppliers and general manufacturers," said Mr Peachment, "but we did not see many of them active there when on another visit just before Christmas. The Japanese are most evident and so are the French to a certain extent, with the Yugoslavs and Italians involved in a particularly large hotel project."

The absence of trade embargoes arises no doubt from the existing political relations, but they will certainly be attempting to get into the market in the near future. With the doubling of oil prices last year, Iraq increased its production by between 25 and 30 per cent to make up the short fall created by Iran.

The country's five-year plan is coming to an end this year and the new plan to

be launched shortly will contain a huge amount of fresh business. This year's investment programme is worth \$16,000m (£7,15m) and imports in 1980 are expected to be worth \$13,500m. Among large projects are the improvement of the port at Basra and a new airport. There will also be a sizable number of industrial sites.

Whether Britain succeeds in gaining much more business will to a certain extent depend on whether there is a particularly strong protest at the severity of Mr Smith's sanctions, although it is considered unlikely to disturb the present improving trade pattern.

Mr Smith was convicted under a law governing the use of agents in Iraq which forbids "illegal mediation". The government is determined to keep an extremely tight rein on what is virtually a state-controlled economy. The law makes it illegal to employ any agent who is not registered and approved by the government.

The overheating of other Middle Eastern economies has pushed many foreign businesses into Iraq for the first time. Undoubtedly many went in without appreciating that business practices are substantially different there.

John Lawless

## Mini Metro launch planned for October

By Clifford Webb

British Leyland's new Mini Metro will be launched in October with an updated version of one of the company's existing engines. Larger models may be powered by a Japanese Honda engine.

The deal has not yet been completed, but reliable sources suggest that the Honda power unit will be built in Britain under licence in about two years' time.

BL's existing deal with Honda calls for a medium-sized Japanese family saloon to be assembled at its Cowley plant next year. It will have a British-built body but the engine and transmission will be imported.

Initially the Metro will be powered by an updated version of the long-running "A" series BMC unit, fitted to the whole of the existing Mini range and the smaller-engined versions of the Allegro and Marina.

With the Metro project already costing £275m, it was clearly impossible for the financially strained group to gamble a further £100m on the development of a new engine incorporating advanced technology to cope with the fuel economy and low pollution requirements of the next 10 to 15 years.

In any event, BL did not, and does not, have sufficient engineering capability to undertake such a project in addition to its existing new car programme.

It is understood that during talks with Honda BL engineers were shown two engines in the final stages of development which impressed them. The smaller of the two immediately suggested itself for the Metro.

Neither Honda nor BL is big enough to put advanced new engines into production in sufficient volume to make economic propositions of them. Acting together, however, it is a different story.

Last night, a BL spokesman said: "We cannot comment on something which may or may not happen."

But Mr Ray Horrocks, managing director of BL Cars, told a conference at the Geneva Motor Show: "We have established a joint working party with Honda to explore other areas for cooperation. Our attitude is that we must go step by step and our major priority is the successful introduction of this first model. We are now very much committed to further collaboration."

## Libya considering cut in oil production

Tripoli, March 5.—Abdul-Salam Zagar, the Libyan oil minister, is considering a cut in oil production. But he does not want to use oil to destabilise the west. Libya's future production would depend on the results of technical studies now underway, he said.

"Our reserves have been overproduced for the past five or eight years and a cut in production is under study. If technical studies prove we have to decrease it and close some fields, we shall do so."

The oil minister said Libyan production was about 2.1 million barrels a day but declined to estimate future output. Libya was not interested in earning a large investment surplus over its immediate needs.

Referring to Saudi Arabia, he said: "Frankly, we think they are overproducing their fields. Their efforts to stabilise, to hold down inflation in the industrialised countries, have been at the expense of their

own resources. They have a money surplus that inflation is eating."

The minister said Libya's increase in oil prices to \$36 from \$14.50 in little more than a year was a response to inflation, not the cause of it. If consuming countries acted to curb inflation, future increases could at least come regularly and not erratically as in the recent past.

"We used to sit down together and look for a formula for regularising prices," he said, mentioning the possible indexation of a basket of currencies on products.

The state-run Nigerian National Petroleum Corp plans to spend 450m nairas (£620m) to boost the oil industry. The funds planned for exploration will be matched by an additional investment of 213m nairas from nine companies operating with the state group.—Reuter and AP-Dow Jones.

## Dearer Algerian gas likely

Paris, March 5.—Sonatrach, the Algerian state-owned oil company, is reported to be planning an "exploration fee" for its liquefied natural gas exports, as is already the case with the \$3 tax imposed on each barrel of crude oil shipments.

According to French industry sources, the exploration fee is among the new financial terms which Algeria is seeking during the renegotiation of all liquefied natural gas export contracts.

Other terms are said to include a new base price of about \$6 per million British Thermal Units (BTUs), the indexation of the base price on that of crude oil, and the standardization of

escalation clauses contained in the contracts.

Algeria has maintained for some time that its LNG export price was way behind that charged by other exporters such as Abu Dhabi, which is selling LNG at more than \$5 per million BTUs.

The official Algerian news agency said that a minimum price of \$6 would encourage and stimulate investments in exploration and development of gas. The agency said that the current price for Algerian gas was ridiculously low, with a difference of \$20 compared to Algerian crude oil. AP—Dow Jones.

## Inquiry on E German 'dumping'

The Department of Trade is setting up a study into allegations that East German clothing is being "dumped" in Britain by being reexported through West Germany.

The move follows extensive lobbying by the British clothing industry, which says it is unable to compete with the price level of the imports. Some of the small High Street shops which sell them are reported to have offered wool suits for as little as £8.

Mr R. W. Gray, the department's deputy secretary, revealed plans for the study yesterday during a hearing of the Commons select committee on Industry and Trade. One measure being considered to prevent the evasion of import quotas was a system of more detailed sample checks at customs.

"I think there is a leakage here. I don't think it is a major thing but it could become more important. We will take steps to make sure it is checked off," Mr Gray said.

The trading status between East and West Germany, which enables East German garments to evade British quotas, was criticized by a number of members of the committee. Because Bonn treats East and West as one nation in trading terms, manufacturers in the East who would be subject to quotas if shipping direct to Britain, can more easily into West Germany without restrictions.

If relabelled there, it can appear to be of West German origin and evade quotas by purporting to come from a member of the EEC.

## Imports 'destroying chemicals industry'

By John Huxley

Britain's chemicals industry could join the list of sectors destroyed by imports if measures to beat a developing crisis are not taken, Mr Roger Lyons, national officer of the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs, said yesterday.

In the past the industry has been a large contributor to Britain's trade balance. Last year it earned a positive balance of £1,500m. However, Mr Lyons told the ASTMS chemicals conference in Bristol that cheap imports from the United States, where producers are supported by artificially low energy and feedstocks, were being dumped in huge quantities on the British market.

These are striking at the very heart of the industry. Even ICI, BP Chemicals and Shell Chemicals are threatened by the onslaught from across the Atlantic," he said.

The recent derisory quotes directed at curbing American synthetic fibre imports were a "classic case of fiddling while Rome burns".

Mr Lyons said that the United States was not the only source of Britain's troubles. "All the leading companies manufacture on the other side of the Channel as well, and the United Kingdom is sucking in imports from continental Western Europe at unprecedented levels."

The removal of controls on overseas investment had boosted

expansion outside Britain. Meanwhile, the over-valuation of sterling was killing British efforts in the export market. Job security in chemicals and plastics was seriously threatened.

He gave a warning that white-collar workers in the chemicals industry would not stand to one side while North Sea oil and gas feedstock was shipped increasingly to America and the Continent, often returning to the United Kingdom as added-value plastics materials and consumer goods.

A devaluation of up to 50 per cent over the next two years, combined with selective import controls were needed if the manufacturing base of Britain was to be rescued from its calamitous decline."

Mr Ronald Halstead, working party concerned at slow progress of

the report says that export performance has been hit by the high level of sterling, and calls on the Government to stabilize the exchange rate at a reasonable level.

There is also concern that export orders have been lost because companies have been unable to raise the necessary working capital to finance imports. The working party is now to study the relationship between working capital requirements and the industry's ability to meet market opportunities.

Meanwhile, Mr Cark-Henry Wigness, secretary general of the International Chamber of Commerce, gave a warning yesterday that MFA talks were going to be very tough. Industrialized countries faced serious economic difficulties.

"Knitting, SWF, Progress Report 1980, NEDO Books, Steel House, 11 Thurlow Street, London SE1 9LJ.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Finding true cost of Polish ships order—the final bill?

From Mr Paul Slater

Sir, It is most disturbing to see

the financial realities of the

sordid British Shipbuilders

transaction with the Polish govern-

ment emerging like leaking oil

from a sunken tanker.

Despite the protestations of

British Shipbuilders that the

order provided valuable work

to the tune of some £50m for

the British shipbuilding industry,

it now appears that not

only did the taxpayer provide

some £30m of subsidies to

secure this order, but is now

going to have to stand at least

£40m of further losses arising

during the construction of the

ships.

Is this the final bill or are

there more unpleasant facts to

be revealed from the as yet un-

published details of the Anglo-

Polish shipowning company set

up to buy and charter these

ships to the Polish govern-

ment?

Were financial penalties for

late delivery included in these

contracts which will also add to

the overall bill?

What has been the additional

cost to the British taxpayer of

providing subsidized finance to

the Poles for this order?

It is disturbing to recall that

the former Secretary of State

for Industry, under the last

government, should have told

the House of Commons in

December, 1977, that this par-

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

## Dividend policy at Cons Gold

By anyone's standards Consolidated Gold Fields is a blue-chip company. Along with Rio Tinto-Zinc, it dominates mining house investment in the United Kingdom. Institutions which expect to maintain a certain weighting in the mining sector are most likely to achieve it partly through Cons Gold. The company's dividend policy is therefore of considerable importance.

On earnings per share of 25.9p at the interim stage, compared with 14.5p, Cons Gold is paying a dividend of 7.5p (40% gross) against 3.5p last year. Cover is therefore slightly reduced from 4.14 to 3.45. This is in line with the company's repeated statements that it would try to keep dividends above average when circumstances permit.

Working out the yield is not so easy, however. The sharp increase in the interim payout is "designed to reduce disparity between it and the final. On the assumption that this ratio would normally be about 1.2, the final would be 20p or 21.4p giving a total payout for the year of around 30p. Here the yield would be 5.7 per cent, about right for the sector.

It is possible to be more optimistic.

Although Cons Gold's industrial and American interests may not grow quite as strongly in the second half, it will be a bumper time for gold profits. The average gold price in the last six months was \$360 an ounce, and the first two months of the second half saw it rocket to \$670. That kind of figure is expected to persist throughout the current half. An additional advantage here is that the tax charge on dividends from Gold Fields of South Africa is low. So there is some speculation of dividends totalling 50p gross.

Whatever the outcome, Cons Gold has again shown its diverse strength, a point which will be appreciated by Mr Harry Oppenheimer who collects about £2.8m on account. While all mining interests accounted for 40 per cent of profits, and gold mining specifically 25 per cent, construction materials shipped in with 34 per cent and manufacturing 17 per cent.

Mr Oppenheimer's interest in the company, involving as it does long-term considerations, will be carefully watched by other shareholders.

## Racial Turning over some stones

Racial has been turning over a few stones at Decca. Losses for this year, which had been estimated at around £2m, are more likely to be £10m, though of that perhaps £4m is accounted for by music publishing. While all mining interests accounted for 40 per cent of profits, and gold mining specifically 25 per cent, construction materials shipped in with 34 per cent and manufacturing 17 per cent.

Mr Oppenheimer's interest in the company, involving as it does long-term considerations, will be carefully watched by other shareholders.

Racial meanwhile forecasts profits for the current year of more than last year's £5.6m, but not more than £6.5m—has been a difficult period for electronics companies, and currency distortions have not helped. On a pro-forma basis, then, Racial is selling at around 144 times prospective earnings, with the shares at 222p and yielding under 2.4 per cent historically.

This a demanding rating especially for a group whose balance-sheet profile will be substantially altered as a result of this bid.

That gearing could rise as much as 60 per cent. This is all for the sceptics who suggest that Racial may have bitten off more than it can chew with Decca, but there is no evidence to support that view yet and no evidence either to suggest that Racial's management has lost its dynamism. And that after all is what is going to decide whether the Decca acquisition works or not.

## Rhodesian markets

### Blocked for the moment

The Rhodesian stock market consisting of five houses, some 60 quoted companies and a turnover of around £250,000 a day, has seen worse. The initial reaction to Mr Robert Mugabe's convincing election victory was to drop by around 10 per cent, but since then there was some recovery from the lower levels.

The Rhodesian pound had been in the

doldrums for the seven years of the war and since the first whiff of real peace four and five-fold rises in share prices have not been unusual. Seen in that perspective the fall of the past couple of days is no more than a ripple.

There are few Rhodesian shares a British investor can buy because of that country's stiff exchange controls. Anyone buying shares on the Salisbury register only runs the risk of seeing his money blocked. An existing shareholder in Britain, and there are many, is already in this situation. Not surprisingly London jobbers are unwilling to take on shares on the Salisbury register only.

This effectively leaves half a dozen shares for consideration—including Rhodesian Corporation, Falcon Mines, Coronation Syndicate, Wankie Colliery and MTD Mangala. It is not impossible that these will rise further if Mr Mugabe's tolerant attitude to private business remains as benign as it sounds now. This could happen not only because the Rhodesian economy can really take off but also because there is plenty of money about some of which might find its way to the stock market.

But British investors should remain cautious. The Rhodesian dollar is grossly overvalued and a large scale devaluation may be expected. It is not at all clear whether this is discounted in existing prices. Secondly, some form of exchange controls are likely to remain and could affect foreign investors.

Finally peace is not yet certain. A potentially more rewarding speculation could still be Rhodesian sterling bonds where in case of the peace holding the downside risk is small and the upward potential good or very good depending on the ultimate compensation terms.

## Leigh interests

### Fund raising with a difference

It is plain enough why Leigh Interests wants to raise an additional £2.5m in cash. The reasons for the decision to raise it by way of an issue of convertible stock take rather more understanding. And as to the Coal Board pension funds' preferential access to what seems likely to be a highly successful issue—well, the circumstances may be understandable, but the reasons remain quite incomprehensible.

Leigh is a small Black Country waste gobbler, whose profits took a dip last year but have subsequently recovered, so that the directors are now forecasting a pre-tax for 1979-80 against £545,000 last time and a previous high of £929,000. The company has been involved in heavy capital expenditure on the development of new disposal sites, and proposes to keep it up; and while it could be financed out of bank borrowings, the balance sheet would look the worse for it. Hence the issue.

As for the decision to issue convertible

loan stock, that hinges partly on the fact that there have been two conventional issues in the past three years; partly it reflects awareness of the relatively small market in the shares, which tend in consequence to swing wildly in price; and partly it hinges on the fact that profits—and therefore dividends—will not be reflecting the benefits of the capital expenditure for a year or so. The 10 per cent convertible stock now being issued (£1 of stock for every four shares) will, if taken up by existing shareholders, boost their income in the interval. It is convertible, at the rate of one new share for every 140p nominal of the stock, in the present.

Some of the existing shareholders, however, are not going to get the chance to boost their income in any such fashion, because the company has already agreed that one of the Coal Board pension funds' nominees, CIN, shall subscribe to 25 per cent of the issue.

The Coal Board pension funds are two amongst several institutions, only two pleased to put their money into the company; and another two (Norwich Union and Britannia Assurance) have agreed to take on some of the underwriting in preference to Kleinwort, who are the official underwriters.

Now, the attractions to the institutions are plain enough, and it isn't difficult to see why the company is pleased with its deal—the directors reckon that CIN's involvement will help the issue off to a flying start. The fact remains however, that whether they want it or not, not all shareholders in this company are going to get an equal chance of subscribing to this issue of stock. Maybe they ought to reject the resolution if it is conditional upon, at the extraordinary general meeting on March 21.

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loan stock, that hinges partly on the fact that there have been two conventional issues in the past three years; partly it reflects awareness of the relatively small market in the shares, which tend in consequence to swing wildly in price; and partly it hinges on the fact that profits—and therefore dividends—will not be reflecting the benefits of the capital expenditure for a year or so. The 10 per cent convertible stock now being issued (£1 of stock for every four shares) will, if taken up by existing shareholders, boost their income in the interval. It is convertible, at the rate of one new share for every 140p nominal of the stock, in the present.

Some of the existing shareholders, however, are not going to get the chance to boost their income in any such fashion, because the company has already agreed that one of the Coal Board pension funds' nominees, CIN, shall subscribe to 25 per cent of the issue.

The Coal Board pension funds are two amongst several institutions, only two pleased to put their money into the company; and another two (Norwich Union and Britannia Assurance) have agreed to take on some of the underwriting in preference to Kleinwort, who are the official underwriters.

Now, the attractions to the institutions are plain enough, and it isn't difficult to see why the company is pleased with its deal—the directors reckon that CIN's involvement will help the issue off to a flying start. The fact remains however, that whether they want it or not, not all shareholders in this company are going to get an equal chance of subscribing to this issue of stock. Maybe they ought to reject the resolution if it is conditional upon, at the extraordinary general meeting on March 21.

The Rhodesian pound had been in the

downdrums for the seven years of the war and since the first whiff of real peace four and five-fold rises in share prices have not been unusual. Seen in that perspective the fall of the past couple of days is no more than a ripple.

There are few Rhodesian shares a British investor can buy because of that country's stiff exchange controls. Anyone buying shares on the Salisbury register only runs the risk of seeing his money blocked. An existing shareholder in Britain, and there are many, is already in this situation. Not surprisingly London jobbers are unwilling to take on shares on the Salisbury register only.

This effectively leaves half a dozen shares for consideration—including Rhodesian Corporation, Falcon Mines, Coronation Syndicate, Wankie Colliery and MTD Mangala. It is not impossible that these will rise further if Mr Mugabe's tolerant attitude to private business remains as benign as it sounds now. This could happen not only because the Rhodesian economy can really take off but also because there is plenty of money about some of which might find its way to the stock market.

But British investors should remain cautious. The Rhodesian dollar is grossly overvalued and a large scale devaluation may be expected. It is not at all clear whether this is discounted in existing prices. Secondly, some form of exchange controls are likely to remain and could affect foreign investors.

Finally peace is not yet certain. A potentially more rewarding speculation could still be Rhodesian sterling bonds where in case of the peace holding the downside risk is small and the upward potential good or very good depending on the ultimate compensation terms.

As for the decision to raise it by way of an issue of convertible stock take rather more understanding. And as to the Coal Board pension funds' preferential access to what seems likely to be a highly successful issue—well, the circumstances may be understandable, but the reasons remain quite incomprehensible.

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## FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

## Stock markets

## Briefly

**ASDA** Asda is to buy F. and A. E. Lodge's hypermarket at Birkby, Huddersfield.

**THOMAS WITTER** Chairman reports that the company has beaten the current year with optimism and he considers that last year's level of trading should be exceeded.

**Wm. WHITTINGHAM** In his annual statement, Mr John Wardle, chairman of William Whittingham (Holdings), says that the board confidently expects the company's progress to be continued.

"It would be unrealistic to say that the dramatic increases in profitability shown over the last two years will be repeated proportionately, but it is entirely realistic to expect that the improvement in profitability in the current year will exceed the rate of inflation".

**AARONSON BROS.** Because of continuing pressure on margins, profitability in the first quarter of the current year was below that for the similar quarter last year. Turnover has increased and the benefit of the major capital expenditure programme coming through, the board is hopeful of a "satisfactory outcome" to the current year.

**YORKGREEN INVESTMENTS** Turnover for half-year to October 31 up from £17,900,000 to £39,000 and pretax profits from £6,000 to £8,000. Comparisons include results of Industrial Controls, which was 50 per cent-owned offshoot until October 1978.

**PEAK INVESTMENTS** Under agreement in 1979 for sale by Peak Investments of its electronics interest to Irish Irlan, Nissa Ltd, £100,000 (Irish) was payable to Peak on February 7 as deferred final consideration. To date, only £35,000 has been paid. Peak's board has started legal action for recovery of

**CORONET INDUSTRIAL** Coronet Industrial Securities' chairman reports in his annual statement that during the year the former chairman's loan was repaid and the company took up a medium-term loan from its bankers. Board confident that enough financial sources are available to enable continuing growth in profit and dividend.

**KCA DRILLING** KCA Drilling is expanding into Canada. Its first two drilling rigs are now being transported to North West Edmonton.

**LONDON & LIVERPOOL TRUST** London and Liverpool Trust, whose shares were suspended on Monday ahead of a major re-organisation, said yesterday that Dutch-based Kilkenny Investment group has sold its 6.25 per cent stake. The group believes it went to a number of investors, although confess they do not know who they are.

**MANUFACTURERS BANKERS** The Export Credits Guarantee Department has guaranteed the repayment and funding of a US\$30m loan which manufacturers Hanover Limited, acting on its own behalf and for a syndicate of banks, had made available to Pravinska Banka Zavarovalna. The loan will help finance contracts awarded to DINA, Petrominika of Yugoslavia to United Kingdom suppliers for the supply of equipment, erection and commissioning of a petrochemical complex to be constructed on the island of Krk, Yugoslavia.

## Options

Traded options remain sluggish yesterday as total contracts rose marginally from 570 to 606. Company result dominated the scene with Consolidated Gold Fields reporting better-than-expected half-year profits, contributing 143 contracts. The April 460p series was the most popular, with most now thinking that the share price, at 526p, has now run out of steam.

Shell, reporting today, remained active with 103 contracts, most of which revolved around the April 390p series.

Traditional options encountered further activity ahead of declaration day today. Mines and Rhodesian-related issues proved popular, although "puts", were arranged in blue chips, including Glaxo, Grand Met, Dunlop and Shell.

## Gilts surge ahead on hopes of Bank help

Hope that the Government is going to do something to relieve the strain in the money markets brought an optimistic note to trading yesterday.

Gilts made an early attempt to recoup some of the losses on Tuesday which in turn breathed some life back into the equity market.

Equities had started cautiously, bearing in mind the latest rise in United States prime rates and the gloomy economic outlook predicted by most experts. The threat of a make or bust situation in the steel market, now entering its tenth week, also provided an extra note of caution.

However, this was all tossed to the wind when gilts roared into action and prices steadily moved, firmer as jobbers were taken by surprise. The position improved as the morning wore on with price movements being exaggerated by a shortage of stock after the jobbers moves the previous day to sell so as to avoid the risk of running too long a position.

Several sectors, nevertheless, did encounter buying, including gold shares and oils which returned to favour after an earlier bout of profit taking. Company news and special situations again provided bright spots elsewhere.

Gilts were the main talking point with most observers now confident that the Government will allow the Bank of England to step in with help with the repurchasing of government securities.

In the event, longs went some way to recoup the previous day's losses with rises of £1 on overnight trading. But while no overall result was reported, the market was described as thin with most jobbers reportedly short of stock which accounted for some of the more accentuated rises.

The story was very much the same in shorts where prices

Speculative interest persisted in an old takeover favourite—Wimbeldon, yesterday. The shares rose 10p to 142p on suggestions that Owen & Owen with a near 30 per cent stake was about to bid for the rest of Elg's or, at least, sell off its interest. Owen & Owen refused to comment on the suggestion.

closed at the top with rises of around 5p. Dealers are now anxiously awaiting the banking figures which are due next Tuesday in order to decide the next move.

Equities remained firm in after hours in advance of new time business which starts today. As a result the FT Index closed at the top with a rise of 4.3 to 460.4.

Stock shortage and a further reflection on recent figures prompted a buying rally in blue chips where Unilever regained all of its earlier losses after full year figures. The shares closed with a net rise of 10p on the day at 448p.

Fisons, which also reported earlier this week, continued to wobble, shedding 3p to 279p while Trusthouse Forte expanded 8p after its AGM and Grand Met climbed 6p to 137p ahead of its AGM today.

Rhodesian related shares were slightly firmer after the elections there, but the market decided to adopt a wait and see policy. In the event, Lombro closed 2p lower at 102p, Turner & Newall improved 1p to 126p while in Rhodesian mines MTD

(Mangala) rose 10p to 120p and Wankie Collieries firms 2p to 12p to 137p.

Comment provided a firm spot for May & Hassel, 3p better at 92p, as speculative interest lifted Hambleton 10p to 73p. Vespe was a dull

10p to 73p. Sudden support for brickmakers, Hambleton yesterday, pushed the price 10p ahead to equal its 12-month peak of 70p. The group, headed by Mr Graham Ferguson Lacey, holds 1.5 per cent of Bernard Wardle, for which Mr Lacey is currently bidding 33p a share.

spot falling 9p to 166p over the delay in Government compensation payments.

Rubbers were again attracting attention over the latest inflationary budget from Singapore which was described as bullish. Guthrie climbed 30p to 785p on big rumours accompanying the Highlands 8p to 120p and Castlefield 2p to 504p.

Among companies reporting AAH rose 12p to 140p, Matthew Clark 4p to 144p and Hamburger Brooks 8p to 71p after all reporting increased earnings but Kode International dipped 18p to 208p.

Equity turnover on March 4 was £100,676m (17,326 bar gains). Active stocks yesterday, according to Exchange Telegraph, were BP, Burman, GEC, Consolidated Gold Fields, Furness, Wibby, Premier Cans, Shell and ICI.

## Latest results

Compn	Sales £m	Earnings per share	Div	Pay	Year's result
Int'l Fin	241,190.0	6.40(4.16)	5.48(3.08)	51.3	(7.0)
Conc Gold (I)	71,045.0	25.9(14.5)	7.5(3.5)	30.4	(1.34)
Hallam Sleigh	5.9(4.7)	0.02(0.15)	0.61(3.0)	—	(—)
Herrbruger Brks (I)	2,412.2	0.15(0.08)	(—)	—	(—)
Kode Int (F)	58,575.53	1.25(1.25)	17.4(23.8)	4.37(3.41)	6.58(5.25)
Matthew Clark (I)	39.2(36.4)	2.17(1.68)	2.0(1.8)	14.4	7.51(7.3)
Pelcom (F)	33.4(31.9)	2.11(1.31)	2.2(2.6)	0.55(—)	1.0(—)
Yorkgreen Invst (I)	(—)	0.05(0.02)	0.9(0.81)	—	(—)

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on peace per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.428. Profits are shown pre-tax and earnings are net. \*=loss.

## AAH sees profits rise by 55pc

By Peter Wilson-Smith

Sparkling performances from AAH's fuel distribution companies and its builders' supplies division were behind the group's 55 per cent increase in pretax profits to £6.46m in the nine months to December 31. Sales rose by 27 per cent to £241m.

The interim dividend of 4.5p, gross is only one tenth higher and there is no indication of a larger increase in the final AAH. He explains that it wants to preserve cash which will interest rates are high and borrowings are at a seasons peak. Interest charges for the nine months were £1.34m against £818,000.

It is also worth noting that because most of the rise in profits came from companies held through British Fuel Com-

pany, in which the National Coal Board has a 49.8 per cent stake, minority interests after a full 52 per cent tax charge were sharply up from £62,000 to £1.28m.

This meant that excluding a £15,000 extraordinary credit profit attributable to ordinary shareholders were only 34 per cent up at £1.7m.

The group's share of fuel distribution was due to big price rises in fuel oil and customer re-stocking of solid fuel. However, a mild winter weather will mean a softer pace in the final quarter.

Some again profits in the final quarter are likely to give around 59p for the full year. Up 12p to 140p, the shares yield a probable 8.0 per cent and the prospective PE ratio is 7.8.

## Profit downturn at Kode

Computer peripherals group Kode International disappointed the market with a £165,000 drop in second half profits.

This left the full-year taxable surplus to December 31 only 3,000 up at £1.25m on sales 13 per cent higher at £8.50m.

The tax charge has more than doubled to £495,000, reflecting a temporary fall-off in capital spending which reduced capital allowances, and a larger provision for deferred tax. So attributable profits were down from £1.02m to £7.58,000. However, the year's dividend, which was increased by 20 per cent to 9.4p gross, was still covered more than

two-and-a-half times on stated earnings.

A £150,000 stock write-off of the now superseded Dataver computer input system and supply problems costing about £150,000 profit explain the second-half downturn. But growth should resume in 1980.

The computer peripherals side will remain difficult as recession sets in, but Moore, Reed, which suffered the supply problems in 1979, has strong order books.

At 207p-19p lower immediately after the results—the shares yield 4.5 per cent and the price-earnings ratio on a nominal full tax charge is 13.

## Oceana details disclosed

Shareholders of troubled Oceana Holdings, formerly Barnett Chrishie Securities, yesterday were given the first chance in nearly a year to see any financial information on the outstanding holdings.

Oceana Holdings, whose shares were suspended last December pending clarification of its financial position, is on the receiving end of a

bid from businessman Mr Patrick Doyle.

Mr Doyle, now a director of Oceana, has bought 45.7 per cent of the company and is bidding 10p a share for the outstanding holdings.

Licensed dealers Energy,

Finance and General Trust, acting for Mr Doyle, have sent out details of the offer, and an annual report covering the year to April 30, 1979.

AAH's fuel distribution

## Phicom figures hit by strikes

By Our Financial Staff

Engineering and electronics group Phicom, which emerged last May from the reconstruction Plantation Holdings, was hampered in the second half of its financial year to December 31 by both the engineering and the television strikes.

These together cost £750,000 with the result that Phicom made only £199,000 pretax in the second half.

So full-year profits were effectively down from £1.3m to £1.22m on losses ahead from £31.9m to £33.4m. However, Phicom is still paying a 1.43p dividend for the year, as forecast at the time of the re-organisation. With the shares unchanged at 38p this gives a yield of 5.1 per cent.

Higher interest rates proved an added burden during 1979. Interest charges rose from £37,000 to £53,000 — as was also the strength of sterling which hindered exports.

However, the overall down turn in profits disguises a strong showing from some parts of the group. The light engineering division turned in a record £714,000 before interest compared with £184,000 in 1978. Data communications also produced a record, raising profits by two-fifths to £755,000.

Against this, video communications turned from £414,000 profits from the instrument division were lower.

Business in the video communications division is still at a low level in the aftermath of the television strike, but order intake is running at a higher level than a year ago. Phicom emphasises that its confidence in the future is reflected in the decision to pay the forecast dividend.

Licensed dealers Energy,

Finance and General Trust, acting for Mr Doyle, have sent out details of the offer, and an annual report covering the year to April 30, 1979.

## Krupp group adds 7pc to sales

## International

External sales of the Fried Krupp GMBH Group of West Germany, the steel-making and industrial group rose by 7 per cent in 1979 to Dm12.79bn from Dm11.85bn in 1978, according to a Krupp interim report.

The company said order inflow totalled Dm13.4bn in 1979, up 23 per cent from 1978.

Domestic orders totalled Dm8.5bn up 28 per cent from 1978, while foreign orders climbed 22 per cent to Dm5.2bn.

Krupp said orders were up in its previously troubled steel sector, with a distinct upswing in specialty steel orders and a

slight increase in orders for rolled steel. But the company said that its steel-making operations experienced drastic increases in energy and raw materials prices.

Order inflow for machines was especially satisfactory according to Krupp, while a series of large foreign orders marked the order inflow for industrial installations. Orders were also up in Krupp's trading

sector, but the ship-building subsidiary AG Weser booked orders for six vessels at prices that do not cover costs.

In a breakdown of sales,

Krupp said that its largest sector, steel, increased sales by 19 per cent to Dm5.29bn. Sales of Krupp's trading and services operations climbed 13 per cent to Dm3.89bn in 1979, while all other major sectors recorded small declines.

Sales of industrial installations totalled Dm3.14bn down 3 per cent from the 1978 total.

While machine sales dropped 2 per cent from 1978 to Dm1.47bn.

Clark owns nearly 52 per cent of Matthe which is based in Leeds and does a big trade in North and Central England. Profits attributable to minority shareholders in Matthe rose from £349,000 to £592,000.

"Old England" British wine (or sherry) sold by J. E. Matthe took a lot of the credit for the way the pretax profits of Matthe Clark and Sons went ahead from £1.35m to £1.51m in the eight months to December 31 last.

Clark owns nearly 52 per cent of Matthe which is based in Leeds and does a big trade in North and Central England. Profits attributable to minority shareholders in Matthe rose from £349,000 to £592,000.



# Sten Creme

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Please phone Lynette Boniface or Kate Lawrence on 493 6455  
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Candidates should have a good design qualification from a College of Art and preferably a degree in an arts subject, but those with experience of special value will also be considered. They must have experience of printing techniques, job-costing and budget control, and practice in, and/or knowledge of, graphic and 3-dimensional display or exhibition work.

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For full details and application form (to be returned by 27 March, 1986) write to Civil Service Commission, Alencon Link, Basingstoke, Hants, RG21 1JB, or telephone Basingstoke (0256) 88551 (answering service operates outside office hours). Please quote G(8)382.

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Salary on scale 24,340 to £5,678 a year, initial placing dependent on age and experience. 27 days annual holiday plus 8 public holidays. Season ticket loan if required.

Application forms may be obtained from the Personnel Office, Royal Postgraduate Medical School, 150 Du Cane Road, London W12 0HS, quoting reference number 1/102.

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**£5,000**

We are looking for a mature (35+) well educated person to help the Secretary of a National Government Committee run a small West End office. Good secretarial skills are needed but equally important are initiative and organisational ability. You will have to be able to handle all kinds of enquiries: some experience in further education would be an advantage.

Write or phone Reg. Council for the Accreditation of Correspondence Colleges, 27 Montague Rd, London NW1. Tel: 01-532 5381.

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Required by small but expanding firm of Chartered Surveyors in Holborn. This is not a secretarial post and involves liaison with staff, relations and recruitment to simple book keeping and administrative work on improving administrative procedures and property management could be included.

The job is a challenging position requiring a good work ethic and a sense of humour.

For details phone 01-542 4321 no agencies

**ADMINISTRATOR**

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Secretary to the Property Unit Trusts, required to manage property consultancy operation at senior management level. Responsibilities include providing secretarial services and acting as a liaison officer between the company and its professional advisers. Main office is in the City, with a small branch office in the West End. Excellent career prospects. Please apply, 4 wks. holiday, 1.v.c. etc. Please telephone 01-499 7191 Mrs. Angela Croad, 73 Brook St., London, W.1.

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**SECRETARY**

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PERSONAL CHOICE

## Broadcasting Guide

Edited by Peter Davalle

## TELEVISION

## BBC 1

6.40 am Open University: Management in education; 7.05 Bath, 18th century; 7.30 Using television. Close down at 7.55. 8.00 For Schools: Colleges: 20th century history (road to Berlin); 8.25 Letters from America; 8.45 Marvellous 10.10 Merry-go-round; 10.35 Scene: Why Prejudice?; 11.05 It's Maths; 11.55 On the Rocks (mortal remains). Close down at 12.20 pm. 12.45 News. 1.00 Pebble Mill at One: Jazz pianist Jacques Loussier—making his first TV appearance without his trio. He is backed only by percussion. Also: driving tests for disabled people. 1.45 Head and tails: Home is a hole; 2.00 You and Me: Friends (r); 2.14 Schools: Colleges: Music Time; 2.40 television Club; 2.55 Primary school at 3.00; 3.25 Primary School: Peter and Susan Barrett's The Line; Sophie Drew; 4.20 Bojan: Yugoslavian cartoon. 4.25

## BBC 2

6.40 am Open University: Maths-isomorphisms; 7.05 Resources in sound; 7.30 Project FAMOUS. 11.00 Play School: Same as BBC 1. 4.55 pm Open University: Image of Empire; 5.15 India: Politics and social change. 5.40 Flash Gordon: Episode 7—The Last Stand. One of the series' best-loved cliffhangers from the 1930s. 6.00 The Magic of a Dartmoor Wood: The death bust of the crab spider and the dance of the wood ant, seen through the viewfinder of Richard Phillips's camera.

## THAMES

9.30 am For Schools: Making a Living (M62 motorway); 9.52 Believe it or not (freedom); 10.05 Look Around (coll.); 10.25 French (French novel); 11.00 Bernard (a French workshop); 11.05 Writers' Workshop (dialects); 11.27 Seeing and Doing (Essex farm animals); 11.44 Picture Box. 12.00 Topper's Tales: Julian Orchard's story: The Chicken House (r); 12.10 pm Stepping Stones: Teaching children about shopping. 12.30 The Silvillians: Australian family serial. 1.00 News: with Peter Sissons. 1.20 Thames news: with Robin Housman. 1.30 Together: Life in a block of flats. The flat bus strikes. 2.00 After Noon Plus: Mary Berry suggests ways of making the best use of your freezer. 2.45 The Spoils of War: Repeat of last Sunday's episode of this Luke District family saga. 3.45 How's Your Father? Comedy series with Harry Worth as a widower. Today: a party dress and a cash crisis. 4.15 Salvage 1: The treasure map inside the rare car. 5.15 White Light: Young people discuss the drug problem after seeing a film, *Booze*, made by 16-year-olds. Also an item on shoe fashions. 5.45 News. 6.00 Thames news. 6.35 Help! Advice about starting a

charity. With Joan Shenton. 6.35 Crossroads: An important date for Barbara Brady.

7.00 Looks Familiar: Nostalgic show business quiz, run by Denis Norden, with questions to Carol Channing, Elaine Stritch and Lionel Blair. 7.30 The Jim Davidson Show: Sketches about money, with Norman Bird and Julie Dawn Cole. Also, the Doubts. 8.00 Armchair Thriller: Fear of God. The journalists and their friends at the HQ of the frightening religious sect where the showdown takes place. 8.30 TV Eye: Julian Mayon interviews Robert Mugabe, Prime Minister-designate of Zimbabwe. 9.00 Chief of Detectives: Another story about crime fighters in New York. With Joe Don Baker in the title role. 10.00 News. 10.30 Thames Report: The Bus Stops Here. Although London bus fares have gone up, the service has gone down. The causes are examined. 11.00 Lou Grant: Marathon: The newspaper editor (Asmer Asmer) and the disgruntled reporter. 12.00 What the Papers Say: Presented by Donald Woods, the former South African newspaper editor. 12.15 am Close: Rita Tushingham reads a poem by Roger McGough.

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"Do violence to no man,  
neither accuse any falsely; and  
be content with your wages."—  
Luke 3:14.

## BIRTHS

COLLINS.—On March 4th, 1980  
at Guy's Hospital, to Judith (ne  
of Dr. David and Mrs. Judith  
Collins) and Philip, a son, David  
John. Sucks on Thursday 6th  
March at 1.10 p.m. 7lb 10oz.  
Princess Margaret Hospital, London.

FRANCIS.—On March 5th, 1980  
at St. Mary's Hospital, to David  
and Philip, a daughter, Sophie.

MATSON.—On February 26th,  
to Helen and David, a son,  
Matthew. Sucks on Saturday 4th  
March at 1.10 p.m. 7lb 10oz.  
Princess Margaret Hospital, London.

WINDSOR.—On March 4th, 1980  
at St. Thomas' Hospital, to Prince  
and Princess Charles and Prince  
and Princess Diana, a son, Prince  
William. Sucks on Saturday 4th  
March at 1.10 p.m. 7lb 10oz.  
Princess Margaret Hospital, London.

PLANT.—On February 28th, 1980  
at St. Thomas' Hospital, to Prince  
and Princess Charles and Prince  
and Princess Diana, a daughter,  
Princess Charlotte. Sucks on Saturday 4th  
March at 1.10 p.m. 7lb 10oz.  
Princess Margaret Hospital, London.

## BIRTHS

REYNOLDS.—On March 3rd, 1980  
at St. Paul's Hospital, Cambridge,  
to Priscilla (neé Clayton) (Sarah  
Ann), a daughter.

TAYLOR.—On March 3rd, 1980  
at St. Paul's Hospital, London,  
to Louise (neé Harrington) (and  
Michael), a daughter.

WELLESLEY.—On 4th  
March at St. Mary's Hospital,  
Paddington, to Karen (neé Beard)  
and Michael, a daughter.

WOODS.—On March 4th, 1980  
at St. Paul's Hospital, London,  
to Richard (neé Woods) and  
Edwina, a daughter.

## BIRTHDAYS

HORNWOOD, JEREMY.—Best wishes  
on your 21st and good luck for  
the future.

## MARRIAGES

GOLDEN WEDDING  
BLACK.—On March 4th, 1980  
at the Church of Christ  
Exington, near Leicestershire, Joyce  
Brett, Present address: 100  
Birrell, Prescot, Lancashire, L3 8BD.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

N. L. HAMILTON-SMITH.—I would  
like to thank all those who have  
written such warm and  
affectionate letters about David  
and I. David, my loving  
mother-in-law, died on 20th  
February 1979. David and I  
would like to add how much all  
these letters have meant to us  
in this difficult time. David was  
a wonderful man, kind and  
generous, and I am sure that  
he would be very pleased to  
know that his character is  
remembered.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

EDMUNDSON.—For the Life and  
Work of the late David Edmundson  
of the Institution of Electrical  
Engineers will be held at the  
Savoy Hill, London, WC2B 4EZ  
on Thursday, 13 March, 1980 at 12

JOVISON.—The Memorial Service  
will be held at the Anglican Church  
in the Americas Parish Church on  
Saturday March 29th 1980 at 12

STEVENS.—A service of thank  
giving will be held at St. Paul's  
Anglican Church, Westminster,  
S.W.1 at 12 noon on Friday 30th  
March 1980.

YOUNG.—The memorial service  
will be held at St. Paul's Church,  
Westminster, S.W.1 at 11.30 a.m.  
on Saturday March 31st 1980.

## DEATHS

BROOKES.—On 3rd March, 1980,  
after a short illness, died at  
home, his wife, a devoted wife of Victor Brookes,  
F.R.C.S., and David, his loving  
mother-in-law. St. Stephen and  
Stephens, of David, Richard and  
Barbara, of Barbara and David.  
Education, Funeral Services  
on 10th March, 1980 at St. Paul's  
Church, Old Bond Street, London,  
W1. Interment at Queen  
Cemetery Cemetery, family flowers,  
order of service, 10.30 a.m. David  
Brookes, 19th March, 1980.

BLACK.—On 3rd March, 1980,  
after a short illness, died at  
home, his wife, a devoted wife of  
Victor Brookes, F.R.C.S., and  
David, his loving mother-in-law.  
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